
Appendix 2

Existing Greater Sage-Grouse RMP
Management Direction

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Appendix 2. Existing Greater Sage-Grouse RMP Management Direction

INTRODUCTION

This appendix includes the greater sage-grouse management goals, objectives and management decisions/actions added to the BLM's resource management plans (RMPs) during the 2014 and 2015 amendments/revisions and the 2019 amendments (as applicable). Each state has a separate section in this appendix with state-specific page numbering. In addition, the goals, objectives, and decisions/actions are numbered from their state-specific planning efforts. These actions apply to the following land use plans, which includes both RMPs, management framework plans, and other BLM planning-level documents, referred to collectively as RMPs. It is important to note that the language in these appendices may not be the exact language from the applicable 2015 or 2019 amendments. During the implementation process, some states have made subsequent amendments or maintenance actions to the language from the 2015 or 2019 ARMPAs. The language in this appendix presents the current management, inclusive of all such changes that have occurred subsequent to the original records of decision.

California:

- Altura RMP (2008)
- Eagle Lake RMP (2008)
- Surprise RMP (2008)

Colorado:

- Colorado River Valley RMP (2015), including Roan Plateau RMPA (2016)
- Grand Junction RMP (2015)
- Kremmling RMP (2015)
- Little Snake RMP (2011)
- White River RMP (1997) and associated amendments, including the White River Oil and Gas Amendment (2015)

Idaho:

- Bennett Hills/Timmerman Hills Management Framework Plan (MFP) (1980)
- Big Desert MFP (1981)
- Big Lost MFP (1983)
- Bruneau MFP (1983)
- Cassia RMP (1985)
- Challis RMP (1999)
- Craters of the Moon National Monument RMP (2006)
- Four Rivers RMP (2023)
- Jarbidge RMP (2015)
- Lemhi RMP (1987)
- Little Lost-Birch Creek MFP (1981)
- Magic MFP (1975)
- Medicine Lodge MFP (1981)

- Monument RMP (1985)
- Owyhee RMP (1999)
- Pocatello RMP (2012)
- Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area RMP (2008)
- Sun Valley MFP (1981)
- Twin Falls MFP (1982)

Montana/Dakotas:

- Billings and Pompeys Pillar National Monument RMP (2015)
- Butte RMP (2009)
- Dillon RMP (2006)
- HiLine RMP (2015)
- Lewistown RMP (2021)
- Miles City RMP (2015)
- North Dakota RMP (1988)
- South Dakota RMP (2015)
- Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument RMP (2008)

Nevada:

- Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area RMP (2004)
- Carson City Field Office Consolidated RMP (2001)
- Elko RMP (1987)
- Ely RMP (2008)
- Shoshone-Eureka RMP (1986)
- Tonopah RMP (1997)
- Wells RMP (1985)
- Winnemucca District RMP (2015)

Oregon:

- Andrews RMP (2005)
- Baker RMP (1989)
- Brothers/La Pine RMP (1989)
- Lakeview RMP (2003)
- Southeastern Oregon RMP (2002)
- Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area RMP (2005)
- Three Rivers RMP (1992)
- Upper Deschutes RMP (2005)

Utah:

- Vernal RMP (2008)
- Price RMP (2008)
- Richfield RMP (2008)
- Kanab RMP (2008)
- Kanab/Escalante Planning Area RMP (2020)
- Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument – Grand Staircase Unit RMP (2020)

- Cedar/Beaver/Garfield/Antimony RMP (1986)
- Pinyon MFP (1978)
- Warm Springs RMP (1987)
- House Range RMP (1987)
- Pony Express RMP (1990)
- Box Elder RMP (1986)
- Randolph MFP (1980)
- Park City MFP (1975)
- Salt Lake District Isolated Tracts Planning Analysis (1985)

Wyoming:

- Buffalo RMP (2015)
- Casper RMP (2007)
- Cody RMP (2015)
- Kemmerer RMP (2010)
- Lander RMP (2014)
- Newcastle RMP (2000)
- Pinedale RMP (2008)
- Rawlins RMP (2008)
- Green River RMP (1997)
- Worland RMP (2015)

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Appendix 2.1
Colorado RMPs

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Appendix 2. Existing Greater Sage-Grouse RMP Management Direction

2.1 COLORADO RMPs

This appendix presents the GRSG approved RMP amendment language from the 2015 and 2019 records of decision for Colorado. Changes between 2015 and 2019 are noted. The table below notes which goals, objectives, appendices, and management decisions/actions have a potential to change as a result of the current planning effort and if so, under which alternatives changes are being considered. Note that any references to tables and appendices are to those applicable 2015 and 2019 appendices that are listed in **Section 2.1.2** of this appendix.

2.1.1 Existing GRSG RMP Management – Colorado RMPs

Table 1: Changes in Management from the 2015 Approved RMPA to the 2019 Approved RMPA

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES (SSS)	SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES (SSS)	—
Objectives:	Objectives:	—
Objective SSS-1: Maintain and enhance populations and distribution of GRSG by protecting and improving sagebrush habitats and ecosystems that sustain GRSG populations.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
MD SSS-1: Adaptive Management: Implement Adaptive Management Plan including soft and hard triggers as described in Appendix H (Guidelines for Implementation and Adaptive Management). The hard and soft trigger data will be analyzed as soon as it becomes available after the signing of the ROD and then at a minimum, analyzed annually thereafter.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD SSS-2: In undertaking BLM management actions, and consistent with valid and existing rights and applicable law in authorizing third-party actions, the BLM will apply the lek buffer distances identified in the U.S. Geological Survey Conservation Buffer Distance Estimates for Greater Sage-Grouse—A Review (Open File Report 2014-1239) in accordance with Appendix B.	MD SSS-2: In undertaking BLM management actions, and consistent with valid and existing rights and applicable law in authorizing third-party actions, the BLM will evaluate the lek buffer distances during project-specific NEPA analyses, in accordance with Appendix H (Guidelines for Implementation and Adaptive Management). Appendix B of the 2015 ROD/ARMPA will not be carried forward.	No changes proposed.

2015 BLM GRSB Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSB Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
MD SSS-3: In all sage-grouse habitat, in undertaking BLM management actions, and, consistent with valid existing rights and applicable law, in authorizing third-party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation, the BLM will require and ensure mitigation that provides a net conservation gain to the species including accounting for any uncertainty associated with the effectiveness of such mitigation. This will be achieved by avoiding, minimizing, and compensating for impacts by applying beneficial mitigation actions.	MD SSS-3: In all Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, before authorizing third-party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation, the BLM will complete the following steps, in alignment with the Governor of Colorado's Executive Orders 2015-004 (May 15, 2015) and 2018-036 (December 2018), including avoiding, minimizing, and compensating for impacts by applying beneficial mitigation actions. 1. If the proponent has not already done so pursuant to Colorado Executive Order 2015-004 and 2018-036, and 2 CCR 404-1:1200 et seq. or other applicable law, policy or regulation, BLM will notify Colorado Parks and Wildlife to determine if the State requires or recommends any additional mitigation – including compensatory mitigation – under State regulations, policies, or programs related to the conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse. 2. Incorporate state required or recommended mitigation into the BLM's NEPA and decisionmaking process, if the CPW determines that there are unacceptable residual impacts on Greater Sage-Grouse or its habitat and compensatory mitigation is required as a part of a State policy or authorization, or if a proponent voluntarily offers mitigation. 3. Analyze whether the compensatory mitigation: • achieves measurable outcomes for Greater Sage-Grouse habitat function that are at least equal to the lost or degraded values • provides benefits that are in place for at least the duration of the impacts • accounts for a level of risk that the mitigation action may fail or not persist for the full duration of the impact 4. Verify that the project proponent has coordinated with the State of Colorado to ensure it complies with Executive Orders 2015-004 and 2018-036 and, when necessary, complies with 2 CCR 404-1:1200 et seq. or other applicable state law, policy or regulation relating to its proposal. 5. Through coordination with CPW, ensure mitigation outcomes are consistent with the State of Colorado's mitigation strategy and principles outlined in Appendix H (Guidelines for Implementation and Adaptive Management).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
VEGETATION (VEG)	VEGETATION (VEG)	—
Objectives:	Objectives:	—
Objective VEG-1: (1) Use habitat restoration as a tool to create and/or maintain landscapes that benefit GRSG; (2) Use Integrated Vegetation Management to control, suppress, and eradicate, where possible, noxious and invasive species per BLM Handbook H-1740-2; and (3) In PHMA, the desired condition is to maintain all lands ecologically capable of producing sagebrush (but no less than 70 percent) with a minimum of 15 percent sagebrush cover or as consistent with specific ecological site conditions. The attributes necessary to sustain these habitats are described in Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health (BLM Technical Reference 1734-6).	No changes made.	No changes proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
Sagebrush Steppe (Habitat Restoration)	Sagebrush Steppe (Habitat Restoration)	—
MD VEG-1: (ADH) When planning restoration treatments in GRSG habitat, identify seasonal habitat availability, and prioritize treatments in areas that are thought to be limiting GRSG distribution and/or abundance. The habitat objectives for GRSG (Table 2) are a list of indicators and values that describe GRSG seasonal habitat conditions. The values for the indicators were derived using a synthesis of current local and regional GRSG habitat research and data and reflect variability of ecological sites. The habitat cover indicators are consistent with existing indicators used by the BLM. When determining if a site is meeting habitat objectives, the measurements from that particular site would be assessed based on the range of values for the indicators in Table 2. Table 2 is one component of GRSG multi-scale habitat assessment (see Appendix D, Greater Sage-Grouse Monitoring Framework). The results of the habitat assessment would be used during the land health evaluation to ascertain if the land health standard applicable to GRSG habitat (e.g., special status species habitat standard) is being met. When authorizing activities in GRSG habitat, the BLM would consider if habitat objectives are being achieved. If the habitat objectives are not being achieved, and the site has the potential for achieving these objectives, the BLM would determine the causal factor(s) and make the necessary management adjustments to address the causal factor(s), following current BLM regulations and policy.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD VEG-2: (PHMA) Include GRSG habitat parameters as defined by Connelly et al. (2000), Hagen et al. (2007), or, if available, state GRSG conservation plans and appropriate local information in habitat restoration objectives. Make meeting these objectives within GRSG PHMA areas a high restoration priority.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
MD VEG-3: (ADH) Require use of native plant seeds that are beneficial for GRSG for vegetation treatments based on availability, adaptation (site potential), probability for success (Richards et al. 1998), and the vegetation management objectives for the area covered by the treatment. Where probability of success or native seed availability is low, use species that meet soil stability and hydrologic function objectives as well as vegetation and GRSG habitat objectives (Pyke 2011).	No changes made.	No changes proposed.
MD VEG-4: (PHMA) Design post restoration management to ensure long-term persistence of seeded or pre-burn native plants. This may require temporary or long-term changes in livestock grazing, wild horse management, travel management, and other uses, to achieve and maintain the desired condition of emergency stabilization and rehabilitation (ESR) projects to benefit GRSG (Eiswerth and Shonkwiler 2006).	No changes made.	No changes proposed.
MD VEG-5: (ADH) Manage for a habitat objective that is primarily sagebrush with a mosaic of seral stages and sagebrush in all age classes. On a site-by-site basis, do not allow treatments that would adversely affect GRSG populations.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.
MD VEG-6: (ADH) Make reestablishment of sagebrush and desirable understory plant cover (relative to ecological site potential) the highest priority for restoration efforts. Consider GRSG habitat requirements in conjunction with all resource values managed by the BLM, and give preference to GRSG habitat unless site-specific circumstances warrant an exemption.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.
MD VEG-7: (ADH) Authorize local sagebrush seed collection to support local restoration efforts.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.
MD VEG-8: (ADH) Treat areas that contain <i>Bromus tectorum</i> and other invasive or noxious species to minimize competition and favor establishment of desired species.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
Conifer Encroachment	Conifer Encroachment	—
MD VEG-8: Remove conifers encroaching into sagebrush habitats, in a manner that considers tribal cultural values. Prioritize treatments closest to occupied GRSG habitats and near occupied leks, and where juniper encroachment is phase 1 or phase 2. Use of site-specific analysis and principles like those September 2015 <i>Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMP Amendment 2-7</i> included in the Fire and Invasives Assessment Team report (Chambers et. al., 2014) and other ongoing modeling efforts to address conifer encroachment will help refine the location for specific priority areas to be treated. See Appendix H, Guidelines for Implementation and Adaptive Management.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.
FIRE AND FUELS MANAGEMENT (FIRE)	FIRE AND FUELS MANAGEMENT (FIRE)	—
Objectives:	Objectives:	—
Objective FIRE-1: Manage fire to maintain and enhance large blocks of contiguous sagebrush.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
Suppression (Fire Operations)	Suppression (Fire Operations)	—
MD FIRE-1: (PHMA) The protection of human life is the single, overriding priority. Setting priorities among protecting human communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources will be done based on the values to be protected, human health and safety, and the costs of protection. Consider GRSG habitat requirements commensurate with all resource values at risk managed by the BLM.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.
MD FIRE-2: (GHMA) The protection of human life is the single, overriding priority. Setting priorities among protecting human communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources will be done based on the values to be protected, human health and safety, and the costs of protection. Consider GRSG habitat requirements commensurate with all resource values at risk managed by the BLM.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
MD FIRE-3: (PHMA/GHMA) Temporary closures would be considered in accordance with 43 CFR subparts 8364, 8351, 6302 and 8341. Temporary closure or restriction orders under these authorities are enacted at the discretion of the authorized officer to resolve management conflicts and protect persons, property, and public lands and resources. Where an authorized officer determines that off-highway vehicles are causing or will cause considerable adverse effects upon soil, vegetation, wildlife, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, historical resources, threatened or endangered species, wilderness suitability, other authorized uses, or other resources, the affected areas shall be immediately closed to the type(s) of vehicle causing the adverse effect until the adverse effects are eliminated and measures implemented to prevent recurrence (43 CFR, Part 8341.2). A closure or restriction order should be considered only after other management strategies and alternatives have been explored. The duration of temporary closure or restriction orders should be limited to 24 months or less; however, certain situations may require longer closures and/or iterative temporary closures. This may include closure of routes or areas.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.
Objectives:	Objectives:	—
Objective FIRE-2: Manage the fuels program to avoid GRSG habitat loss and restore damaged habitat.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
Fuels Management	Fuels Management	—
MD FIRE-4: (PHMA) Do not reduce sagebrush canopy cover to less than 15 percent (Connelly et al. 2000; Hagen et al. 2007) in a project area unless a vegetation management objective requires additional reduction in sagebrush cover to meet strategic protection of GRSG PHMA and conserve habitat quality for the species, in consultation with the State of Colorado.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
MD FIRE-5: (PHMA) Apply appropriate seasonal restrictions for implementing vegetation management treatments according to the type of seasonal habitats present in a Colorado management zone (MZ).	No changes made.	No changes proposed.
MD FIRE-6: (PHMA) Allow no treatments in known winter range unless the treatments are designed to strategically reduce wildfire risk around or in the winter range and will maintain winter range habitat quality, unless in consultation with the State of Colorado it is deemed necessary to reduce risk to life and property.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.
MD FIRE-7: (ADH) Do not use fire to treat sagebrush in less than 12-inch precipitation zones (e.g., Wyoming big sagebrush or other xeric sagebrush species) (Connelly et al. 2000; Hagen et al. 2007; Beck et al. 2009). However, if as a last resort and after all other treatment opportunities have been explored, and site-specific variables allow, the use of prescribed fire or natural ignition fire for fuels breaks that would disrupt fuel continuity or enhance land health could be considered where cheatgrass is deemed a minor threat. If prescribed fire is used in GRSG habitat, the NEPA analysis for the burn plan will address: • why alternative techniques were not selected as viable options • how GRSG goals and objectives would be met by its use • how the COT report objectives would be addressed and met • a risk assessment to address how potential threats to GRSG habitat would be minimized Prescribed fire as a vegetation or fuels treatment shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the burn plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Prescribed fire could be used to meet specific fuels objectives that would protect GRSG habitat in PHMA (e.g., creating fuel designed to strategically reduce wildfire risk around and/or in the winter range and designed to protect winter range habitat quality breaks that	No changes made.	No changes proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
would disrupt the fuel continuity across the landscape in stands where annual invasive grasses are a minor component in the understory, burning slash piles from conifer-reduction treatments, or being used as a component with other treatment methods to combat annual grasses and restore native plant communities). Prescribed fire in known winter range shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the burn plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Any prescribed fire in winter habitat would need to be designed to strategically reduce wildfire risk around and/or in the winter range and designed to protect winter range habitat quality.	(See above.)	(See above.)
MD FIRE-8: (ADH) Monitor and control invasive vegetation post treatment.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.
MD FIRE-9: (ADH) Require use of native plant seeds for vegetation treatments based on availability, adaptation (site potential), probability for success (Richards et al. 1998), and the vegetation management objectives for the area covered by the treatment. Where probability of success or native seed availability is low, use species that meet soil stability and hydrologic function objectives as well as vegetation and GRSG habitat objectives (Pyke 2011).	No changes made.	No changes proposed.
MD FIRE-10: (PHMA) Design post fuels management to ensure long-term persistence of seeded or pre-burn native plants. This may require temporary or long-term changes in livestock grazing, wild horse management, travel management, and other uses, to achieve and maintain the desired condition of ESR projects to benefit GRSG (Eiswerth and Shonkwiler 2006).	No changes made.	No changes proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
MD FIRE-11: (ADH) Design vegetation treatments in GRSG habitats to strategically facilitate firefighter safety, reduce wildfire threats, and extreme fire behavior. This may involve spatially arranging new vegetation treatments with past treatments, vegetation with fire-resistant serial stages, natural barriers, and roads in order to constrain fire spread and growth. This may require vegetation treatments to be implemented in a more linear versus block design (Launchbaugh et al. 2007).	No changes made.	No changes proposed.
MD FIRE-12: (PHMA) During fuels management project design, consider the utility of using livestock to strategically reduce fine fuels (Diamond et al. 2009), and implement grazing management that will accomplish this objective (Davies et al. 2011; Launchbaugh et al. 2007). Consult with ecologists to minimize impacts to native perennial grasses consistent with the objectives and conservation measures of the grazing section.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.
Objectives:	Objectives:	—
Objective FIRE-3: Use ESR to address post-wildfire threats to GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
Post-Fire Management (Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation)	Post-Fire Management (Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation)	—
MD FIRE-13: (ADH) Require use of native plant seeds that are beneficial for GRSG for vegetation treatments based on availability, adaptation (site potential), probability for success (Richards et al. 1998), and the vegetation management objectives for the area covered by the treatment. Where attempts to use native seeds have failed, or native seed availability is low, use species that meet soil stability and hydrologic function objectives, as well as vegetation and GRSG habitat objectives (Pyke 2011).	No changes made.	No changes proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
MD FIRE-14: (ADH) Design post-fire ESR and Burn Area Emergency Rehabilitation management to ensure long-term persistence of seeded or pre-burn native plants. This may require temporary or long-term changes in livestock grazing, wild horse management, travel management, and other uses to achieve and maintain the desired condition of ESR and Burn Area Emergency Rehabilitation projects to benefit GRSG (Eiswerth and Shonkwiler 2006).	No changes made.	No changes proposed.
MD FIRE-15: (ADH) Rest burned areas from grazing for two full growing seasons unless vegetation recovery dictates otherwise (Wyoming Game and Fish Department 2011).	—	No changes proposed.
RANGE MANAGEMENT (RM)	RANGE MANAGEMENT (RM)	—
Objectives:	Objectives:	—
Objective RM-1: GRSG objectives and well-managed livestock operations are compatible because forage availability for livestock and hiding cover for GRSG are both dependent on healthy plant communities. Agreements with partners that promote sustainable GRSG populations concurrent with sustainable ranch operations offer long-term stability. In the context of sustainable range operations, manage the range program to: 1) maintain or enhance vigorous and productive plant communities; 2) maintain residual herbaceous cover to reduce predation during GRSG nesting and early brood-rearing; 3) avoid direct adverse impacts to GRSG-associated range project infrastructure; and 4) employ grazing management strategies that avoid concentrating animals on key GRSG habitats during key seasons.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
MD RM-1: (ADH) Within ADH, incorporate GRSG habitat objectives and management considerations into all BLM grazing allotments through Allotment Management Plans.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD RM-2: (ADH) Work cooperatively on integrated ranch planning within GRSG habitat. Develop management strategies that are seamless with respect to actions on public and private lands within BLM grazing allotments.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
MD RM-3: (PHMA) The BLM will prioritize: 1. the review of grazing permits/leases, in particular to determine if modification is necessary prior to renewal, and 2. the processing of grazing permits/leases in PHMA. In setting workload priorities, precedence will be given to existing permits/leases in these areas not meeting Land Health Standards, with focus on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows. The BLM may use other criteria for prioritization to respond to urgent natural resource concerns (e.g., fire) and legal obligations.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD RM-4: (ADH) Conduct land health assessments that include (at a minimum) indicators and measurements of vegetation structure/condition/composition specific to achieving GRSG habitat objectives (Doherty et al. 2011). If local/state seasonal habitat objectives are not available, use GRSG habitat recommendations from Connolly et al. 2000 and Hagen et al. 2007.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
Implementing Management Actions after Land Health and Habitat Evaluations	Implementing Management Actions after Land Health and Habitat Evaluations	—
MD RM-5: (ADH) Develop specific objectives—through NEPA analysis conducted in accordance with the permit/lease renewal process—to conserve, enhance, or restore GRSG habitat. Base benchmarks on Ecological Site/Range Site Descriptions. When existing on Ecological Site/Range Site Descriptions have not been developed, or are too general to serve adequately as benchmarks, identify and document local reference sites for areas of similar potential that exemplify achievement of GRSG habitat objectives and use these sites as the benchmark reference. Establish measurable objectives related to GRSG habitat from baseline monitoring data, ecological site descriptions, or land health assessments/evaluations, or other habitat and successional stage objectives.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
MD RM-6: (ADH) Manage for vegetation composition and structure consistent with ecological site potential and within the reference state subject to habitat objectives, including successional stages.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD RM-7: (ADH) Include terms and conditions on grazing permits and leases that address disruptive activities that affect GRSG and assure plant growth requirements are met and residual forage remains available for GRSG hiding cover. Specify as necessary: 1. Season or timing of use 2. Numbers of livestock (include temporary non-use or livestock removal) 3. Distributions of livestock use 4. Intensity of use (utilization or stubble height objectives) 5. Kind of livestock (e.g., cattle, sheep, horse, llama, alpaca, and goat) 6. Class of livestock (e.g., yearlings versus cow/calf pairs) 7. Locations of bed grounds, sheep camps, trail routes, and the like	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD RM-8: (ADH) Develop drought contingency plans at the appropriate landscape unit that provide for a consistent/appropriate BLM response. Plans shall establish policy for addressing ongoing drought and post-drought recovery for GRSG habitat objectives.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD RM-9: The NEPA analysis for renewals and modifications of livestock grazing permits/leases that include lands within PHMA would include specific management thresholds based on Table 2.3 in the Proposed Plan, Land Health Standards (43 CFR, Part 4180.2), ecological site potential, and one or more defined responses that would allow the authorizing officer to make adjustments to livestock grazing that have already been subject to NEPA analysis.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD RM-10: Allotments within PHMA, focusing on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows, would be prioritized for field checks to help ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the grazing permits. Field checks could include monitoring for actual use, utilization, and use supervision.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
<i>Riparian Areas and Wet Meadows</i>	<i>Riparian Areas and Wet Meadows</i>	
MD RM-11: (ADH) Manage riparian areas and wet meadows for proper functioning condition within ADH.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD RM-12: (ADH) Within ADH, manage wet meadows to maintain diverse species richness, including a component of perennial forbs, relative to site potential (i.e., reference state).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD RM-13: (ADH) Establish permit/lease terms and conditions in conjunction with grazing strategies to ensure that the timing and level of utilization results in wet meadows with diverse species richness, including a component of perennial forbs, relative to site potential (i.e., reference state).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD RM-14: (ADH) Authorize new water development only after determining that the project will not adversely impact GRSG from habitat loss. Ensure that adequate long-term grazing management is in effect before authorizing water developments that may increase levels of use or change season of use. Give specific consideration to adjacent or downstream wetland habitat when a project entails a diversion from a spring or seep.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD RM-15: (ADH) Analyze springs, seeps and associated pipelines to determine if modifications are necessary to maintain the continuity of the predevelopment riparian area. If necessary to maintain GRSG populations or reverse a downward population trend caused by habitat loss, modify the project as necessary to restore the applicable wetland habitat.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
<i>Treatments to Increase Forage for Livestock/Wild Ungulates</i>	<i>Treatments to Increase Forage for Livestock/Wild Ungulates</i>	—
MD RM-16: (ADH) Manage for a habitat objective that is primarily sagebrush with a mosaic of seral stages and sagebrush in all age classes. On a site-by-site basis, do not allow treatments that would adversely affect GRSG populations. See Appendix H, Guidelines for Implementation and Adaptive Management.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
MD RM-17: (PHMA) Evaluate the role of existing seedings that are currently composed of primarily introduced perennial grasses in and adjacent to GRSG PHMA to determine if they should be restored to sagebrush or habitat of higher quality for GRSG. If these seedings are part of an Allotment Management Plan/Conservation Plan or if they provide value in conserving or enhancing the rest of PHMA, then no restoration would be necessary. Assess the compatibility of these seedings for GRSG habitat or as a component of a grazing system during the land health assessments (Davies et al. 2011). For example: Some introduced grass seedings are an integral part of a livestock management plan and reduce grazing pressure in important sagebrush habitats or serve as a strategic fuels management area.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
Structural Range Improvements and Livestock Management Tools	Structural Range Improvements and Livestock Management Tools	—
MD RM-18: (ADH) Design new range improvement projects to enhance livestock distribution and to control the timing and intensity of utilization. Examples of structural range improvement projects are cattle guards, fences, corrals, pipelines, troughs, storage tanks, windmills, ponds/reservoirs, solar panels, and spring developments. Include a plan to monitor and control invasive plant species following any related ground disturbance. Place mineral or salt supplements away from water sources and leks in locations that enhance livestock distribution.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD RM-19: (PHMA) Where conditions create the potential for impacts from West Nile virus from developments or modification of water developments, use preferred design features (PDFs)/RDFs to mitigate the potential impacts. See Appendix C (Required Design Features, Preferred Design Features, and Suggested Design Features).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
MD RM-20: (PHMA) Evaluate existing structural range improvements to determine if modifications are necessary to maintain GRSG populations or reverse a downward population trend caused by habitat loss. Modify, relocate, or remove projects as necessary. Place mineral and salt supplements away from water sources and leks in locations that enhance livestock distribution.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD RM-21: (ADH) Mark fences in high risk areas (Christiansen 2009; Stevens 2011). (PHMA) Where marking fences does not reduce fence-related GRSG mortality, modify fences. Where modification does not reduce GRSG mortality and the fence-related mortality is sufficient to adversely affect GRSG populations, remove fences.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD RM-22: (ADH) Monitor for and treat invasive species associated with existing range improvements (Gelbard and Belnap 2003; Bergquist et al. 2007).	—	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
Retirement of Grazing Privileges	Retirement of Grazing Privileges	—
MD RM-23: (ADH) At the time a permittee or lessee voluntarily relinquishes a permit or lease, the BLM will consider whether the public lands where that permitted use was authorized shall remain available for livestock grazing or be used for other resource management objectives, such as reserve common allotments or fire breaks. This does not apply to or impact grazing preference transfers, which are addressed in 43 CFR, Part 4110.2-3. When a permittee or lessee voluntarily relinquishes grazing preference, consider conversion of the allotment to a reserve common allotment that will remain available for use on a temporary, nonrenewable basis for the benefit of GRSG habitat. Authorize temporary nonrenewal permits in Reserve Common Allotments to meet resource objectives elsewhere such as rest or deferment due to fire or vegetation treatments. Temporary use of reserve common allotments would not be allowed due to drought or overuse of customary allotments.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
WILD HORSES AND BURROS (WHB)	WILD HORSES AND BURROS (WHB)	—
Objectives:	Objectives:	—
Objective WHB-1: Manage wild horses in a manner designed to 1) avoid reductions in grass, forb, and shrub cover, and 2) avoid increasing unpalatable forbs and invasive plants such as <i>Bromus tectorum</i> .	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
MD WHB-1: (ADH) Manage wild horse population levels within established appropriate management levels.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD WHB-2: (ADH) Prioritize gathers in GRSG PHMA, unless removals are necessary in other areas to prevent catastrophic environmental issues, including herd health impacts. Consider GRSG habitat requirements in conjunction with all resource values managed by the BLM, and give preference to GRSG habitat unless site-specific circumstances warrant an exemption.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD WHB-3: (PHMA) Within PHMA, develop or amend BLM HMA plans to incorporate GRSG habitat objectives and management considerations for all BLM HMAs. When developing HMA plans, apply all appropriate conservation measures from the range program, including, but not limited to, utilization of forage and structural range improvements.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD WHB-4: (PHMA) For all BLM HMAs within PHMA, prioritize the evaluation of all appropriate management levels based on indicators that address vegetation structure/condition/composition and measurements specific to achieving GRSG habitat objectives. Consider GRSG habitat requirements in conjunction with all resource values managed by the BLM, and give preference to GRSG habitat unless site-specific circumstances warrant an exemption.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD WHB-5: (ADH) Coordinate with other resources (range, wildlife, and riparian) to conduct land health assessments to determine existing vegetation structure/condition/composition within all BLM HMAs.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
MD WHB-6: (PHMA) When conducting NEPA analysis for wild horse management activities, water developments, or other rangeland improvements for wild horses in PHMA, address the direct and indirect effects to GRSG populations and habitat. Implement any water developments or rangeland improvements using the criteria identified for domestic livestock identified above in PHMA.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MINERALS (MR)	MINERALS (MR)	—
Objectives:	Objectives:	—
Objective MR-1: Manage fluid minerals to avoid, minimize, and compensate for: 1) direct disturbance, displacement, or mortality of GRSG; 2) direct loss of habitat or loss of effective habitat through fragmentation; and 3) cumulative landscape-level impacts. Priority will be given to leasing and development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, outside PHMA and GHMA. When analyzing leasing and authorizing development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, in PHMA and GHMA, and subject to applicable stipulations for the conservation of GRSG, priority will be given to development in non-habitat areas first and then in the least suitable habitat for GRSG. The implementation of these priorities will be subject to valid existing rights and any applicable law or regulation, including, but not limited to, 30 US Code 226(p) and 43 CFR, Part 3162.3-1(h).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
Unleased Fluid Minerals	Unleased Fluid Minerals	—
MD MR-1: No new leasing 1 mile from active leks in ADH.	MD MR-1: One mile from active leks: Open to leasing subject to NSO-1. NSO-1: **Exceptions or modifications may be considered if, in consultation with the State of Colorado, it can be demonstrated that there is no impact on Greater Sage-Grouse based on one of the following: • Topography/areas of non-habitat create an effective barrier to impacts • No additional impacts would be realized above those created by existing major • infrastructure (for example, State Highway 13) • The exception or modification precludes or offsets greater potential impacts if the action were proposed on adjacent parcels (for example, due to landownership patterns) **In order to approve exceptions or modifications to this lease stipulation, the Authorized Officer must obtain: agreement, including written justification, between the BLM District Managers and CPW that the proposed action satisfies at least one of the criteria listed above. Waiver: No waivers are authorized unless the area or resource mapped as possessing the attributes protected by the stipulation is determined during collaboration with the State of Colorado to lack those attributes or potential attributes. A 30-day public notice and comment period is required before waiver of a stipulation. Waivers would require BLM State Director approval.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD MR-2: No Surface Occupancy (NSO) without waiver or modification in PHMA. See Appendix G (Stipulations Applicable to Fluid Mineral Leasing and Land Use Authorizations) for exceptions. The following stipulation would apply: GRSG NSO-46e: See Appendix G, Stipulations Applicable to Fluid Mineral Leasing and Land Use Authorizations, for waiver, modification, and exception criteria.	MD MR-2 (one mile from active leks to the remainder of PHMA): Open to leasing subject to No Surface Occupancy (NSO-2) with waivers, exceptions, or modifications in PHMA. Surface occupancy can occur in PHMA with approved waivers, exceptions, or modifications. The following stipulation would apply: NSO-2: See Appendix G, Stipulations Applicable to Fluid Mineral Leasing and Land Use Authorizations for waiver, modification and exception criteria.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
MD MR-3: In GHMA, any new leases would include TL stipulations to protect GRSG and its habitat. The following stipulation would apply: GRSG TL-46e: No activity associated with construction, drilling, or completions within 4 miles from active leks during lekking, nesting, and early brood-rearing (March 1 to July 15). Authorized Officer could grant an exception, modification, or waiver in consultation with the State of Colorado (Appendix G, Stipulations Applicable to Fluid Mineral Leasing and Land Use Authorizations).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD MR-4: No Surface Occupancy (NSO) within 2 miles of active leks in GHMA. Waivers, exceptions, and modification could be obtained under conditions described in Appendix G, Stipulations Applicable to Fluid Mineral Leasing and Land Use Authorizations.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD MR-5: Disturbance on new leases would be limited to 3 percent in PHMA (biologically significant unit) (see Appendix E, Methodology for Calculating Disturbance Caps) and would be limited to 1 disturbance per 640 acres calculated by Colorado MZ. The following Lease Notice (LN) would apply: GRSG LN-46e: Any lands leased in PHMA are subject to the restrictions of 1 disturbance per 640 acres calculated by biologically significant unit (Colorado populations) and proposed project analysis area (Colorado MZ) to allow clustered development (Appendix G, Stipulations Applicable to Fluid Mineral Leasing and Land Use Authorizations).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD MR-6: No new leasing in PHMA if disturbance cap exceeds 3 percent calculated by biologically significant unit (Colorado populations) and proposed project analysis area (Colorado MZ) or 1 disturbance per 640 acres density is exceeded (see Appendix E, Methodology for Calculating Disturbance Caps).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
MD MR-7: (PHMA) Allow geophysical exploration within PHMA to obtain information for existing federal fluid mineral leases or areas adjacent to state or fee lands within PHMA. Allow geophysical operations only using helicopter-portable drilling, wheeled or tracked vehicles on existing roads, or other approved methods conducted in accordance with seasonal TLs and other restrictions that may apply. Geophysical exploration shall be subject to seasonal restrictions that preclude activities in breeding, nesting, brood-rearing, and winter habitats during their season of use by GRSG.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 4 and 5.
Objectives:	Objectives:	—
Objective MR-2: Where a proposed fluid mineral development project on an existing lease could adversely affect GRSG populations or habitat, the BLM will work with the lessees, operators, or other project proponents to avoid, reduce, and mitigate adverse impacts to the extent compatible with lessees' rights to drill and produce fluid mineral resources. The BLM will work with the lessee, operator or project proponent in developing an Application for Permit to Drill for the lease to avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts to GRSG or its habitat and will ensure that the best information about GRSG and its habitat informs and helps guide development of such federal leases.	No changes made.	Proposed change under Alternative 3.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
Leased Fluid Minerals	Leased Fluid Minerals	—
MD MR-8: Within 1 mile of active leks, disturbance, disruptive activities, and occupancy are precluded. If it is determined that this restriction would render the recovery of fluid minerals infeasible or uneconomic, considering the lease as a whole, or where development of existing leases requires that disturbance density exceeds 1 disturbance per 640 acres and/or the 3 percent disturbance cap (see Appendix E, Methodology for Calculating Disturbance Caps), use the criteria* below to site proposed lease activities to meet GRSG habitat objectives and require mitigation as described in Appendix F (Greater Sage-Grouse Mitigation Strategy). Criteria*: • Location of proposed lease activities in relation to critical GRSG habitat areas as identified by factors, including, but not limited to, average male lek attendance and/or important seasonal habitat • An evaluation of the potential threats from proposed lease activities that may affect the local population as compared to benefits that could be accomplished through compensatory or off-site mitigation • An evaluation of the proposed lease activities, including design features, in relation to the site-specific terrain and habitat features. For example, within 4 miles from a lek, local terrain features such as ridges and ravines may reduce the habitat importance and shield nearby habitat from disruptive factors. This is particularly likely in Colorado MZ 17, which has an atypical GRSG habitat featuring benches with GRSG habitat interspersed with steep ravines To authorize an activity based on the criteria above, the environmental record of review must show no significant direct disturbance, displacement, or mortality of GRSG.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
MD MR-9: In PHMA and within 4 miles of an active lek, the criteria* below would be applied to guide development of the lease or unit that would result in the fewest impacts possible to GRSG. Criteria*: • Location of proposed lease activities in relation to critical GRSG habitat areas as identified by factors, including, but not limited to, average male lek attendance and/or important seasonal habitat • An evaluation of the potential threats from proposed lease activities that may affect the local population as compared to benefits that could be accomplished through compensatory or off-site mitigation • An evaluation of the proposed lease activities, including design features, in relation to the site-specific terrain and habitat features. For example, within 4 miles from a lek, local terrain features such as ridges and ravines may reduce the habitat importance and shield nearby habitat from disruptive factors. This is particularly likely in Colorado MZ 17, which has an atypical GRSG habitat featuring benches with GRSG habitat interspersed with steep ravines To authorize an activity based on the criteria above, the environmental record of review must show no significant direct disturbance, displacement, or mortality of GRSG.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
MD MR-10: Based on site-specific conditions, prohibit construction, drilling, and completion within PHMA within 4 miles of a lek during lekking, nesting, and early brood-rearing (March 1 to July 15). In consultation with the State of Colorado, this TL may be adjusted based on application of the criteria below. Criteria*: • Location of proposed lease activities in relation to critical GRSG habitat areas as identified by factors, including, but not limited to, average male lek attendance and/or important seasonal habitat • An evaluation of the potential threats from proposed lease activities that may affect the local population as compared to benefits that could be accomplished through compensatory or off-site mitigation • An evaluation of the proposed lease activities, including design features, in relation to the site-specific terrain and habitat features. For example, within 4 miles from a lek, local terrain features such as ridges and ravines may reduce the habitat importance and shield nearby habitat from disruptive factors. This is particularly likely in Colorado MZ 17, which has an atypical GRSG habitat featuring benches with GRSG habitat interspersed with steep ravines To authorize an activity based on the criteria above, the environmental record of review must show no significant direct disturbance, displacement, or mortality of GRSG.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD MR-11: Within PHMA, operators would be encouraged to complete Master Development Plans in consultation with the State of Colorado, instead of single-well Applications for Permit to Drill for all but exploratory wells. (Notice to Lessees-54e: see Appendix G, Stipulations Applicable to Fluid Mineral Leasing and Land Use Authorizations.)	No changes made.	No changes proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
MD MR-12: When necessary, conduct effective mitigation in 1) GRSG PHMA or—less preferably—2) GHMA (dependent upon the area-specific ability to increase GRSG populations and in consultation with the State of Colorado).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD MR-13: Conduct effective compensatory mitigation first within PHMA in the same Colorado MZ where the impact is realized; if not possible, then conduct mitigation within the same population as the impact, or in other Colorado GRSG populations, in consultation with the State of Colorado.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD MR-14: For future actions in ADH, require a full reclamation bond specific to the site in accordance with 43 CFR, Parts 3104.2, 3104.3, and 3104.5. Ensure bonds are sufficient for costs relative to reclamation (Connelly et al. 2000; Hagen et al. 2007) that would result in full restoration of the lands to the condition it was found prior to disturbance. Base the reclamation costs on the assumption that contractors for the BLM will perform the work.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6..
Objectives:	Objectives:	—
Objective MR-3: Manage solid mineral programs to avoid, minimize, and compensate for adverse impacts to GRSG habitat to the extent practical under the law and BLM jurisdiction.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
Locatable Minerals	Locatable Minerals	—
MD MR-15: (PHMA) In plans of operations required prior to any proposed surface-disturbing activities include as appropriate effective mitigation for conservation in accordance with existing policy (BLM Washington Office Instruction Memorandum 2013-142).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD MR-16: (PHMA) Where applicable to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation, apply seasonal restrictions if deemed necessary.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
Objectives:	Objectives:	—
Objective MR-4: Manage solid mineral programs to avoid, minimize, and compensate for adverse impacts to GRSG habitat to the extent practical under the law and BLM jurisdiction.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
<i>Saleable Minerals</i>	<i>Saleable Minerals</i>	—
MD MR-17: (PHMA) Close PHMA to new mineral material sales. However, these areas would remain open to free use permits and the expansion of existing active pits, only if the following criteria are met: • The activity is within the biologically significant unit and the project area disturbance cap • The activity is subject to the provisions set forth in the mitigation strategy (Appendix F) • All applicable required/preferred design features are applied; and [if applicable] the activity is permissible under the regional screening criteria (Appendix H, Guidelines for Implementation and Adaptive Management).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
MD MR-18: (ADH) Restore salable mineral pits no longer in use to meet GRSG habitat conservation objectives. Require reclamation/restoration of GRSG habitat as a viable long-term goal to improve the GRSG habitat (Appendix H, Guidelines for Implementation and Adaptive Management).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
Objectives:	Objectives:	—
Objective MR-5: Manage solid mineral programs to avoid, minimize, and compensate for adverse impacts to GRSG habitat to the extent practical under the law and BLM jurisdiction.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
<i>Nonenergy Leasable Minerals</i>	<i>Nonenergy Leasable Minerals</i>	—
MD MR-19: No new nonenergy mineral leasing in PHMA.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
MD MR-20: Existing nonenergy mineral leases: Apply the following conservation measures as conditions of approval (COAs) where applicable and feasible: • Preclude new surface occupancy on existing leases within 1 mile of active leks (Blickley et al. 2012; Harju et al. 2012). • If the lease is entirely within 1 mile of an active lek, require any development to be placed in the area of the lease least harmful to GRSG based on vegetation, topography, or other habitat features (Appendix G, Stipulations Applicable to Fluid Mineral Leasing and Land Use Authorizations). • Preclude new surface disturbance on existing leases within 2 miles of active leks within PHMA. If the lease is entirely within 2 miles of an active lek, require any development to be placed in the area of the lease least harmful to GRSG based on vegetation, topography, or other habitat features (Appendix G, Stipulations Applicable to Fluid Mineral Leasing and Land Use Authorizations). • Limit permitted disturbances to 1 disturbance per 640 acres average across the landscape in PHMA. Disturbances may not exceed 3 percent in PHMA (see Appendix E, Methodology for Calculating Disturbance Caps) in any biologically significant unit (Colorado populations) and proposed project analysis area (Colorado MZ). GRSG TL-47-51 – Based on site-specific conditions, prohibit surface occupancy or disturbance within PHMA within 4 miles of a lek during lekking, nesting, and early brood-rearing (March 1 to July 15).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
Objectives:	Objectives:	—
Objective MR-6: Utilize federal authority to protect GRSG habitat on split-estate lands to the extent provided by law.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
Mineral Split-Estate	Mineral Split-Estate	—
MD MR-21: (PHMA/GHMA) Where the federal government owns the mineral estate in PHMA and GHMA, and the surface is in nonfederal ownership, apply the same stipulations, COAs, and/or conservation measures and RDFs/PDFs applied if the mineral estate is developed on BLM-administered lands in that management area, to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities, and in coordination with the landowner.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD MR-22: (PHMA/GHMA) Where the federal government owns the surface and the mineral estate is in nonfederal ownership in PHMA and GHMA, apply appropriate surface use COAs, stipulations, and mineral RDFs/PDFs through ROW grants or other surface management instruments, to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities, in coordination with the mineral estate owner/lessee.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
Objectives:	Objectives:	—
Objective MR-7: Manage solid mineral programs to avoid, minimize, and compensate for adverse impacts to GRSG habitat to the extent practical under the law and BLM jurisdiction.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
Solid Minerals – Coal	Solid Minerals – Coal	—
MD MR-23: (ADH) <i>Existing Coal Leases:</i> During the term of the lease, encourage the lessee to voluntarily follow PDFs (Appendix C, Required Design Features, Preferred Design Features, and Suggested Design Features) to reduce and mitigate any adverse impacts to GRSG. At the time an application for a new coal lease or lease modification is submitted to the BLM, the BLM will determine whether the lease application area is “unsuitable” for all or certain coal mining methods pursuant to 43 CFR, Part 3461.5. PHMA is essential habitat for maintaining GRSG for purposes of the suitability criteria set forth at 43 CFR, Part 3461.5(o)(1). To authorize expansion of existing leases, the environmental record of review must show no significant direct disturbance, displacement, or mortality of GRSG based on these criteria: • Important GRSG habitat areas as identified by factors, including, but not limited to, average male lek attendance and/or important seasonal habitat • An evaluation of the threats affecting the local population as compared to benefits that could be accomplished through compensatory or off-site mitigation • An evaluation of terrain and habitat features. For example, within 4 miles from a lek, local terrain features such as ridges and ravines may reduce the habitat importance and shield nearby habitat from disruptive factors.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.
MD MR-24: No new surface coal mine leases would be allowed in PHMA. At the time an application for a new coal lease or lease modification is submitted to the BLM, the BLM would determine whether the lease application area is “unsuitable” for all or certain coal mining methods pursuant to 43 CFR, Part 3461.5. PHMA is essential habitat for maintaining GRSG for purposes of the suitability criteria set forth at 43 CFR, Part 3461.5(o)(1).	No changes made.	No changes proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
MD MR-25: <i>New Underground Coal Mine Leases would be subject to:</i> Special Stipulations: • All surface disturbances will be placed more than 2 miles from active leks. • No surface disturbance on remainder of PHMA subject to the following conditions: If, after consultation with the State of Colorado, and in consideration of the following criteria, there is no significant direct disturbance, displacement, or mortality of GRSG or impact to GRSG habitat; • 3 percent disturbance cap in PHMA with disturbances limited to 1 disturbance per 640 acres density calculated by Colorado MZ and proposed project analysis area would apply to new lease activities • No new leasing in PHMA if disturbance cap exceeds 3 percent (see Appendix E, Methodology for Calculating Disturbance Caps) for the biologically significant unit (Colorado populations) and proposed project analysis area (Colorado MZ) or 1 disturbance per 640 acres is exceeded	No changes made.	No changes proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
MD MR-26: (ADH) Underground mining exemption criteria for new leases: I. Federal lands with coal deposits that would be mined by underground mining methods shall not be assessed as unsuitable where there would be no surface coal mining operations, as defined in 43 CFR, Part 3400.0-5(mm) of this title, on any lease, if issued. Where underground mining will include surface operations and surface impacts on federal lands to which a criterion applies, the lands shall be assessed as unsuitable unless the surface management agency find that a relevant exception or exemption applies. See 43 CFR, Part 3461.1(b). Where practicable, limit permitted disturbances as defined in Appendix H, Guidelines for Implementation and Adaptive Management, to 3 percent in any biologically significant unit (Colorado populations) and proposed project analysis area (Colorado MZ). Where disturbance exceeds 3 percent in any biologically significant unit (Colorado populations) and proposed project analysis area (Colorado MZ), make additional, effective mitigation necessary to offset the resulting loss of GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
MD MR-27: (PHMA) See 43 CFR, Part 3461.4 (a) and (b), Exploration. Authorized exploration activities may be conducted only if the Authorized Officer reviews any application for an exploration license on such lands to ensure that any exploration does not harm any value for which the area has been assessed as unsuitable and determines that the exploration will not adversely affect GRSG populations due to habitat loss or disruptive activities or that the impact can be fully mitigated. Where practicable, limit permitted disturbances as defined in Appendix H, Guidelines for Implementation and Adaptive Management, to 3 percent in PHMA any biologically significant unit (Colorado populations) and proposed project analysis area (Colorado MZ). Where disturbance exceeds 3 percent in any biologically significant unit (Colorado populations) and proposed project analysis area (Colorado MZ), make additional, effective mitigation necessary to offset the resulting loss of GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.
MD MR-28: (PHMA) <i>Underground mining – lease renewals:</i> • Require that all surface mining appurtenant facilities for underground mining be located outside of PHMA (unless the lessee establishes that that such location is not technically feasible). • If surface mining facilities must be located in PHMA, require the facilities be located in areas of existing disturbance and to have the smallest footprint possible utilizing design strategies to minimize disturbance, such as those identified in the PDF section of this table. • Apply as conditions of lease renewal all appropriate conservation measures, PDFs, and mitigation designed to avoid or minimize impacts to GRSG. (ADH) <i>Surface mining – lease renewals/readjustments:</i> Apply as conditions of lease renewal all appropriate conservation measures, PDFs, and mitigation designed to avoid or minimize impacts to GRSG.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
MD MR-29: (ADH) Recommend or require as appropriate during all relevant points of the coal leasing and authorization process, minimization of surface-disturbing or disrupting activities (including operations and maintenance) where needed to reduce the impacts of human activities on important seasonal GRSG habitats. Apply these measures during activity-level planning (jurisdiction is managed by the State). The Office of Surface Mining or a delegated State Regulatory authority under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 authorizes surface-disturbing activities of active coal mining operations on federal mineral estate. The BLM coordinates with the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 in overseeing coal leasing and permitting on federal lands. The resource recovery and protection plan for which BLM recommends approval to the Secretary integrates the reclamation plan recommended by the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 for active coal mines on federal mineral estate. Approval of coal mining plans on lands containing leased federal coal is reserved to the Secretary of the Interior (30 CFR, Part 740.4). BLM issues coal leases and exploration licenses for right of entry to promote development of minerals on federal lands. See the following in regards to BLM exploration: 43 CFR, Part 3461.4, Exploration. States with delegated authority on federal lands from the Office of Surface Mining may have their own GRSG guidance in association with state wildlife agencies and such guidance may differ from state to state.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.
MD MR-30: (ADH) (a) Assessment of any area as unsuitable for all or certain stipulated methods of coal mining operations pursuant to Section 522 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 US Code 1272) and the regulations of this subpart does not prohibit exploration of such area under 43 CFR, Parts 3410 and 3480, and 43 CFR, Part 3461.4(a)	No changes made.	No changes proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
MD MR-31: (ADH) (b) An application for an exploration license on any lands assessed as unsuitable for all or certain stipulated methods of coal mining shall be reviewed by the BLM to ensure that exploration does not harm any value for which the area has been assessed as unsuitable (43 CFR, Part 3461.4(b))	No changes made.	No changes proposed.
RENEWABLE ENERGY (WIND AND SOLAR) (RE)	RENEWABLE ENERGY (WIND AND SOLAR) (RE)	—
Objectives:	Objectives:	—
Objective RE-1: Manage the Lands and Realty program to avoid, minimize, and compensate for the loss of habitat and habitat connectivity through the authorizations of ROWs, land tenure adjustments, proposed land withdrawals, agreements with partners, and incentive programs.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
Wind Energy Development	Wind Energy Development	—
MD RE-1: (PHMA) Manage PHMA as exclusion areas for wind energy development.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD RE-2: (GHMA) Manage GHMA as avoidance areas for wind energy development.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
Industrial Solar Development	Industrial Solar Development	—
MD RE-3: (PHMA) Manage PHMA as exclusion areas for industrial solar projects.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD RE-4: (GHMA) Manage GHMA as avoidance areas for industrial solar projects.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
LANDS AND REALTY (LR)	LANDS AND REALTY (LR)	—
Objectives:	Objectives:	—
Objective LR-1: Manage the Lands and Realty program to avoid, minimize, and compensate for the loss of habitat and habitat connectivity through the authorizations of ROWs, land tenure adjustments, proposed land withdrawals, agreements with partners, and incentive programs.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
Objective LR-2: Effects of infrastructure projects, including siting, will be minimized using the best available science, updated as monitoring information on current infrastructure projects becomes available.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
Land Use Authorizations	Land Use Authorizations	—
MD LR-1: Manage areas within PHMA as avoidance areas* for BLM ROW permits. (See Appendix G, Stipulations Applicable to Fluid Mineral Leasing and Land Use Authorizations.) *GRSG PHMA ROW Avoidance. ROWs may be issued after documenting that the ROWs would not adversely affect GRSG populations based on the following criteria: • Location of proposed activities in relation to critical GRSG habitat areas as identified by factors, including, but not limited to, average male lek attendance and/or important seasonal habitat. • An evaluation of the potential threats from proposed activities that may affect the local population as compared to benefits that could be accomplished through compensatory or off-site mitigation • An evaluation of the proposed activities in relation to the site-specific terrain and habitat features. For example, within 4 miles from a lek, local terrain features such as ridges and ravines may reduce the habitat importance and shield nearby habitat from disruptive factors.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
MD LR-2: Manage areas within GHMA as avoidance areas* for major (transmission lines greater than 100 kilovolts and pipelines greater than 24 inches) and minor BLM ROW permits. (See Appendix G, Stipulations Applicable to Fluid Mineral Leasing and Land Use Authorizations.) *GRSG PHMA ROW Avoidance. ROWs may be issued after documenting that the ROWs would not adversely affect GRSG populations based on the following criteria: • Location of proposed activities in relation to critical GRSG habitat areas as identified by factors, including, but not limited to, average male lek attendance and/or important seasonal habitat. • An evaluation of the potential threats from proposed activities that may affect the local population as compared to benefits that could be accomplished through compensatory or off-site mitigation An evaluation of the proposed activities in relation to the site-specific terrain and habitat features. For example, within 4 miles from a lek, local terrain features such as ridges and ravines may reduce the habitat importance and shield nearby habitat from disruptive factors.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
MD LR-3: No new roads or above-ground structures would be authorized within 1 mile of an active lek. Above-ground structures are defined as structures that are located on or above the surface of the ground, including but not limited to: roads, fences, communication towers, and/or any structure that would provide perches. Above-ground structures would only be authorized if: 1. It is consistent with the overall objective of the RMP Amendment; 2. The effect on GRSG populations or habitat is nominal or incidental; 3. Allowing the exception prevents implementation of an alternative more detrimental to GRSG or similar environmental concern, and; 4. Rigid adherence to the restriction would be the only reason for denying the action.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
MD LR-4: PHMA and GHMA are designated as avoidance areas for high-voltage transmission line ROWs, except for the transmission projects specifically identified below. All authorizations in these areas, other than the following identified projects, must comply with the conservation measures outlined in this ARMPA, including the RDFs and avoidance criteria presented in this document. The BLM is currently processing applications for the TransWest and Energy Gateway South Transmission Line projects, and the NEPA review for these projects is well underway. Conservation measures for GRSG are being analyzed through the projects' NEPA review process, which should achieve a net conservation benefit for the GRSG. *GRSG PHMA ROW Avoidance. ROWs may be issued after documenting that the ROWs would not adversely affect GRSG populations based on the following criteria: • Location of proposed activities in relation to critical GRSG habitat areas as identified by factors, including, but not limited to, average male lek attendance and/or important seasonal habitat. • An evaluation of the potential threats from proposed activities that may affect the local population as compared to benefits that could be accomplished through compensatory or off-site mitigation An evaluation of the proposed activities in relation to the site-specific terrain and habitat features. For example, within 4 miles from a lek, local terrain features such as ridges and ravines may reduce the habitat importance and shield nearby habitat from disruptive factors.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
MD LR-5: Any new projects within PHMA would be subject to the 3 percent disturbance cap as described in Appendix E , Methodology for Calculating Disturbance Caps. If the 3 percent disturbance cap is exceeded in PHMA in any Colorado MZ, no new ROW would be authorized in PHMA within that biologically significant unit (Colorado populations) and proposed project analysis area (Colorado MZ), unless site-specific analysis documents no impact to GRSG. Within existing designated utility corridors, the 3 percent disturbance cap may be exceeded at the project scale if the site specific NEPA analysis indicates that a net conservation gain to the species will be achieved. This exception is limited to projects which fulfill the use for which the corridors were designated (ex., transmission lines, pipelines) and the designated width of a corridor will not be exceeded as a result of any project co-location.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD LR-6: Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities associated with BLM ROW within 4 miles from active leks during lekking, nesting, and early brood-rearing (March 1 to July 15). (See special stipulations applicable to GRSG PHMA ROW TL .)	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD LR-7: Construct new roads to the appropriate Gold Book standard and add the surface disturbance to the total disturbance in the PHMA.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.
MD LR-8: (PHMA) In PHMA, or within 4 miles of an active lek, for ROW renewals, where existing facilities cannot be removed, buried, or modified, require perch deterrents.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD LR-9: (PHMA) Reclaim and restore ROWs considering GRSG habitat requirements.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD LR-10: (PHMA) Designate new ROW corridors in GRSG PHMA only where there is a compelling reason to do so and location of the corridor within PHMA will not adversely affect GRSG populations due to habitat loss or disruptive activities.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
MD LR-11: (PHMA) Consider the likelihood of development of not-yet-constructed surface-disturbing activities – as defined in Table D.2 of the Monitoring Framework (Appendix D)–under valid existing rights prior to authorizing new projects in PHMA.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
Land Tenure Adjustment	Land Tenure Adjustment	—
MD LR-11: Retain public ownership of GRSG PHMA. Consider exceptions where: It can be demonstrated that: 1) disposal of the lands, including land exchanges, will provide a net conservation gain to the GRSG; or 2) the disposal of the lands, including land exchanges, will have no direct or indirect adverse impact on GRSG conservation. There is mixed ownership, and land exchanges would allow for additional or more contiguous federal ownership patterns within the GRSG PHMA.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.
MD LR-12: (PHMA) In isolated federal parcels, only allow tract disposals that are beneficial or neutral to long-term management of GRSG populations.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.
MD LR-13: (GHMA) For lands in GHMA that are identified for disposal, the BLM would only dispose of such lands consistent with the goals and objectives of this ARMPA, including, but not limited to, the ARMPA objective to maintain or increase GRSG abundance and distribution.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.
MD LR-14: (ADH) Consider GRSG habitat values in acquisitions. For example: Identify key GRSG habitats on private or state land, adjacent to existing BLM land, where acquisition and protection by BLM could substantially benefit the local GRSG population. This could be accomplished via purchase, exchange, or donation to satisfy mitigation requirements.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.
RECREATION (REC)	RECREATION (REC)	—
Objectives:	Objectives:	—
Objective REC-1: Manage recreation to avoid activities that 1) disrupt GRSG, 2) fragment GRSG habitat, or 3) spread noxious weeds.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
MD REC-1: (PHMA) Do not allow special recreation permits with the potential to adversely affect GRSG or GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.
TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION (TTM)	TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION (TTM)	—
Objectives:	Objectives:	—
Objective TTM-1: Manage travel and transportation to 1) reduce mortality from vehicle collisions, 2) limit change in GRSG behavior, 3) avoid, minimize, and compensate for habitat fragmentation, 4) limit the spread of noxious weeds, and 5) limit disruptive activity associated with human access.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
MD TTM-1: (PHMA) Limit off-highway vehicle (OHV) travel to existing roads, primitive roads, and trails at a minimum. Special Zone Provision: Colorado MZ 13 – Manage the Wolford Mountain open OHV area.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.
MD TTM-2: (PHMA) Evaluate and consider permanent or seasonal road or area closures as needed to address a current threat.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.
MD TTM-3: (PHMA) Complete activity level travel plans as soon as possible, subject to funding. During activity level planning, where appropriate, designate routes with current administrative/agency purpose or need to administrative access only.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.
MD TTM-4: (PHMA) Complete activity level travel plans as soon as possible, subject to funding. Limit route construction to routes that will not adversely affect GRSG populations due to habitat loss or disruptive activities.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential Changes in 2023 Plan
MD TTM-5: (PHMA) Use existing roads or realignments whenever possible. If it is necessary to build a new road, and the use of existing roads would cause adverse impacts to GRSG, construct new roads to the appropriate minimum Gold Book standard and add the surface disturbance to the total disturbance in the PHMA if it meets the criteria in Appendix H, Guidelines for Implementation and Adaptive Management. Construct no new roads if the biologically significant unit (Colorado populations) and proposed project analysis area (Colorado MZ) is over the 3 percent disturbance cap (see Appendix E, Methodology for Calculating Disturbance Caps), unless there is an immediate health and safety need, or to support valid existing rights that cannot be avoided. Evaluate and implement additional, effective mitigation necessary to offset the resulting loss of GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.
MD TTM-6: (PHMA) Allow upgrades to existing routes after documenting that the upgrade will not adversely affect GRSG populations due to habitat loss or disruptive activities.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.
MD TTM-7: (PHMA) Conduct restoration of roads, primitive roads and trails not designated in travel management plans. This also includes primitive route/roads that were not designated in wilderness study areas and within lands with wilderness characteristics that have been selected for protection in previous LUPs.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.
MD TTM-8: (PHMA) When reseeding roads, primitive roads and trails, use appropriate seed mixes and consider the use of transplanted sagebrush.	No changes made.	No changes proposed.

Table 2. Seasonal Habitat Desired Conditions for GRSG

Attribute	Indicators	Desired Condition
BREEDING AND NESTING^{1,2,3} (Seasonal Use Period March 1-June 15) Apply 4 miles from active leks.¹⁵		
Lek Security	Proximity of trees ⁴	Trees or other tall structures are none to uncommon within 1.86 miles of leks ^{5,6}
	Proximity of sagebrush to leks ⁵	Adjacent protective sagebrush cover within 328 feet of lek ⁵
Cover	Seasonal habitat extent ⁶	>80% of the breeding and nesting habitat
	Sagebrush canopy cover ^{5,6,7,17} Arid sites Mesic sites	15 to 30% 20 to 30% ¹⁷
	Sagebrush height ^{6,17} Arid sites ^{5,6,9} Mesic sites ^{5,6,10}	11.8 to 31.5 inches (30-80 cm) 15.7 to 31.5 inches (40-80 cm)
	Predominant sagebrush shape ⁵	>50% in spreading ¹¹
	Perennial grass canopy cover (such as native bunchgrasses) ^{5,6,17} Arid sites ^{6,9} Mesic sites ^{6,10,17}	>10% >20% ¹⁷
	Perennial grass and forb height (includes residual grasses) ^{5,6,7}	>6 inches ^{6,16,17}
	Perennial forb canopy cover ^{5,6,7} Arid sites ⁹ Mesic sites ¹⁰	>5% ^{5,6,17} >15% ^{5,6,17}
BROOD-REARING/SUMMER¹ (Seasonal Use Period June 16-October 31)		
Cover	Seasonal habitat extent ⁶	>40% of the brood-rearing/summer habitat
	Sagebrush canopy cover ^{5,6,7,17} Arid sites Mesic sites	10 to 25% 10 to 25%
	Sagebrush height ^{6,7,17} Arid sites Mesic sites	11.8 to 31.5 inches (30 to 80 cm) 13.8 to 31.5 inches (35 to 80 cm)
	Perennial grass canopy cover and forbs ^{6,7,17} Arid sites Mesic sites	>15% ¹⁷ >25% ¹⁷
	Riparian areas (both lentic and lotic systems)	Proper Functioning Condition ¹³
	Upland and riparian perennial forb availability ^{5,6}	Preferred forbs are common with several preferred species present ¹²

Attribute	Indicators	Desired Condition
WINTER¹ (Seasonal Use Period November 1-February 28)		
Cover and Food	Seasonal habitat extent ^{5,6,7}	>80% of the winter habitat
	Sagebrush canopy cover above snow ^{5,6,7,17}	>20% Arid, 25% Mesic ¹⁷
	Sagebrush height above snow ^{5,6,7}	>10 inches ¹⁴

¹ Seasonal dates can be adjusted; that is, start and end dates may be shifted either earlier or later, but the amount of days cannot be shortened or lengthened by the local unit.

² Doherty 2008

³ Holloran and Anderson 2005.

⁴ Baruch-Mordo et al. 2013

⁵ Stiver et. al. 2014

⁶ Connelly et al. 2000

⁷ Connelly et al. 2003

⁹ 10–12 inch precipitation zone; *Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis* is a common big sagebrush sub-species for this type site (Stiver et. al. 2014).

¹⁰ >12 inch precipitation zone; *Artemisia tridentata vaseyana* is a common big sagebrush sub-species for this type site (Stiver et. al. 2014).

¹¹ Sagebrush plants with a spreading shape provide more protective cover than sagebrush plants that are more tree or columnar shaped (Stiver et. al. 2014).

¹² Preferred forbs are listed in Habitat Assessment Framework Table III-2 (Stiver et. al. 2014). Overall, total forb cover may be greater than that of preferred forb cover since not all forb species are listed as preferred in Table III-2.

¹³ Existing land management plan desired conditions for riparian areas/wet meadows (spring seeps) may be used in place of properly functioning conditions, if appropriate for meeting GRS habitat requirements.

¹⁴ The height of sagebrush remaining above the snow depends upon snow depth in a particular year. Intent is to manage for tall, healthy, sagebrush stands.

¹⁵ Buffer distance may be changed only if 3 out of 5 years of telemetry studies indicate the 4 miles is not appropriate.

¹⁶ Measured as “droop height”; the highest naturally growing portion of the plant.

¹⁷ Colorado Greater Sage-grouse Steering Committee 2008

2.1.2 Relevant Appendices

The following table shows which appendices from the 2015 and 2019 plans have management direction that may change through this RMP amendment. Note that if 2019 is not listed in the year, then no change was made to the appendix between the 2015 and 2019 plans. The appendices can be found on [the Colorado GRSG ePlanning website](#).

ARMPA Appendix Name	Year	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
A: Approved RMP Amendment Maps	2015	Yes
B: Buffer Distances and Evaluation of Impacts on Leaks	2015	No
C: Required Design Features, Preferred Design Features, and Suggested Design Features	2015	Yes
D: Greater Sage-Grouse Monitoring Framework	2015	No
E: Methodology for Calculating Disturbance Caps	2015	Yes
F: Greater Sage-Grouse Mitigation Strategy	2015	Yes
G: Stipulations Applicable to Fluid Mineral Leasing and Land Use Authorizations	2015, 2019	Yes
H: Guidelines for Implementation and Adaptive Management	2015, 2019	Yes

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Appendix 2.2

Idaho RMPs

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2.2 IDAHO RMPs

This appendix presents the GRSG approved RMP amendment language from the 2015 and 2019 records of decision for Idaho. Changes between 2015 and 2019 are noted. The table below notes which goals, objectives, appendices, and management decisions/actions have a potential to change as a result of the current planning effort and if so, under which alternatives changes are being considered. Note that any references to tables and appendices are to those applicable 2015 and 2019 appendices that are listed in **Section 2.2.2** of this appendix.

2.2.1 Existing GRSG RMP Management – Idaho RMPs

Table 1: Changes in Management from the 2015 Approved RMPA to the 2019 Approved RMPA

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment				2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment				Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
TABLE 2-1 SUMMARY OF ALLOCATION DECISIONS BY GRSG HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREAS				TABLE 2-1 LAND USE ALLOCATIONS WITHIN DESIGNATED SAGE-GROUSE HABITAT IN THE APPROVED PLAN AMENDMENT				—
								Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
Resource	PHMA	IHMA	GHMA	Resource	PHMA	IHMA	GHMA	
Land Tenure	Retain	Retain	Retain	Land Tenure	Retain	Retain	Retain	
Solar	Exclusion	Avoidance	Open	Wind and solar	Exclusion	Avoidance	Open	
Wind	Exclusion	Avoidance	Open	ROWs	Avoidance	Avoidance	Open	
Major ROWs	Avoidance	Avoidance	Open	Oil and Gas and Geothermal	Open with Major Stipulations	Open with Major Stipulations	Open with Standard Stipulations	
Minor ROWs	Avoidance	Avoid	Open	Non-energy Leasables	Closed	Open	Open	
Oil and Gas	Open with Major Stipulations	Open with Major Stipulations	Open with Controlled Surface use and Standard Stipulations	Salable Minerals	Closed with limited exceptions	Open	Open	
Geothermal	Open with Major Stipulations	Open with Major Stipulations	Open with Controlled Surface use and Standard Stipulations	Locatable Minerals*	Open	Open	Open	
Non-energy Leasables	Closed	Open	Open	Travel Management	Limited	Limited	Limited	
Salable Minerals	Closed	Open	Open	Livestock Grazing	Open	Open	Open	
Locatable Minerals	SFA = Recommend Withdrawal; Other PHMA = Open	Open	Open	*Areas are open for locatable mineral entry unless they have been withdrawn under a separate order.				
Travel Management	Limited	Limited	ID –Limited MT-- Limited to Designated (see Dillon RMP)					
Livestock Grazing	Open	Open	Open					

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES (SSS)	SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES (SSS)	—
GOAL:	GOAL:	—
Goal SSS 1: Maintain and/or increase the abundance, distribution and connectivity of GRSG by conserving, enhancing or restoring GRSG habitat to maintain resilient populations by reducing, eliminating or minimizing threats to GRSG habitats.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
Goal SSS 2: Provide for the needs of GRSG and their habitat while also providing for resource uses in accordance with BLM's direction for multiple use and sustained yield as described in FLPMA.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Goal SSS 3: Manage anthropogenic development and human disturbance to minimize the likelihood of adverse population level effects on GRSG.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Goal SSS 4: Reduce the risk of West Nile Virus or other disease outbreaks from BLM management actions.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Goal SSS 5: Conserve, enhance, and restore the sagebrush ecosystem upon which GRSG populations depend on in an effort to maintain and/or increase their abundance and distribution, in cooperation with other conservation partners.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Objectives:	Objectives:	—
Objective SSS 1: Maintain or make progress toward all lands within PHMA and IHMA (at least 70%) capable of producing sagebrush so there is a minimum of 15 percent sagebrush cover and conifers absent to uncommon within 1.86 miles of occupied leks.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Objective SSS 2: Incorporate GRSG Seasonal Habitat Objectives (Table 2), into the design of projects or activities, as appropriate, based on site conditions and ecological potential, unless achievement of fuels management objectives require additional reduction in sagebrush cover to meet strategic protection of GRSG habitat and conserve habitat quality for the species or at least one of the following conditions can be demonstrated and documented in the NEPA analysis associated with the specific project: • A specific objective is not applicable to the site-specific conditions of the project or activity; • An alternative objective is determined to provide equal or better protection for GRSG or its habitat (based on appropriate scientific findings); or • Analysis concludes that following a specific objective will provide no more protection to	Objective SSS 2: Within PHMA and IHMA, maintain large intact sagebrush steppe communities with vegetative characteristics consistent with their ecological potential such that GRSG can select suitable seasonal habitats for breeding, nesting, rearing young, and wintering. GRSG actively select suitable use areas within large intact sagebrush ecosystems. Not every site will provide for every GRSG need, which is why they require large intact sagebrush ecosystems. The desired conditions for GRSG (the Desired Conditions table (Table 2-2) in the 2015 Final EIS) are a list of indicators, characteristics, and values that describe GRSG seasonal habitat use areas. The BLM used indicator values derived from a synthesis of local and regional GRSG habitat research and data to describe the typical vegetation communities that GRSG select.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
GRSG or its habitat than not following it, for the project being proposed. • These habitat objectives in Table 2 summarize the characteristics that research has found represent the seasonal habitat needs for GRSG. The specific seasonal components identified in the table were adjusted based on local science and monitoring data to define the range of characteristics used in this subregion. Thus, the habitat objectives provide the broad vegetative conditions we strive to obtain across the landscape that indicate the seasonal habitats used by GRSG. These habitat indicators are consistent with the rangeland health indicators used by the BLM. • The habitat objectives will be part of the GRSG habitat assessment to be used during land health evaluations (see Appendix D, Monitoring Framework). These habitat objectives are not obtainable on every acre within the designated GRSG habitat management areas. Therefore, the determination on whether the objectives have been met will be based on the specific site's ecological ability to meet the desired condition identified in the table. • All BLM use authorizations will contain terms and conditions regarding the actions needed to meet or progress toward meeting the habitat objectives. If monitoring data show the habitat objectives have not been met nor progress being made towards meeting them, there will be an evaluation and a determination made as to the cause. If it is determined that the authorized use is a cause, the use will be adjusted by the response specified in the instrument that authorized the use.	While the desired conditions are not attainable on every site or every acre within designated GRSG habitat management areas, the values reflect a range of habitat conditions that generally lead to greater survival of individuals within a population. When permitting land use activities, the BLM shall consider the ecological site potential within designated habitat management areas to validate the habitat conditions achievable for a specific site. The seasonal habitat descriptions in Table 2-2 [the Desired Conditions table in the 2015 Final EIS] vary across the range of GRSG, within a sub-region, and between sites. They are not land health standards but are quantitative measures that help inform the Special Status Species Habitat Land Health Standard for GRSG. These measurable values reflect ecological potential, and may be adjusted based on local factors influencing GRSG habitat selection. Local data or recent science may indicate that GRSG select for vegetation structure and composition in seasonal habitats not characterized by the values in the desired conditions table. In these cases, it may be appropriate to adjust the values. Desired Conditions should be evaluated in the context of annual variability in ecological conditions and should not be used singly to determine habitat suitability for GRSG. As appropriate, they may be used to demonstrate trends over time, during plan evaluations for effectiveness of GRSG conservation, or when identifying limiting habitat characteristics for a given area. The indicators, characteristics, values, and desired seasonal habitat conditions in the GRSG Plan Desired Conditions Table are meant to inform the wildlife habitat component of the Land Health Standards evaluation process (LHS, 43 CFR 4180.2), but do not replace rangeland health assessments. Results from the LHS evaluation should be used to support the BLM in land use authorization processes and during development of appropriate objectives for management actions such as vegetation treatments. The Desired Conditions Tables are to be used as follows: a. To assess habitat suitability, as defined by BLM policy and the Habitat Assessment	(See above.)

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
(See above.)	Framework, for GRSG at the appropriate scale b. To describe desired conditions that provide habitat at multiple spatial scales, as defined by the best available science c. To evaluate land use plan effectiveness for GRSG conservation d. To develop measurable project objectives for actions in BLM-designated GRSG habitat management areas, as needed, when considered alongside land health standards, ecological potential and local information.	(See above.)
Table 2 Habitat Objectives (full table on following this table) For nesting/early brood rearing habitat: Indicator: Perennial grass (and forb) height (includes residual grasses) Desired Condition: ≥ 7 inches	Table 3 Desired Conditions (full table following this table; same as 2015 except) For nesting/early brood rearing habitat: Indicator: Perennial grass (and forb) height (includes residual grasses) Desired Condition: - Adequate Nesting Cover References (add): Hausleitner 2005; Holloran et al. 2005; Gibson et al. 2016; Smith et al. 2017; Smith et al. 2018	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
Greater Sage-Grouse Management Areas	2.3 GREATER SAGE-GROUSE MANAGEMENT AREAS The boundaries of the habitat designations have been adjusted to correct administrative mapping errors that occurred when PHMA was designated in 2015. Habitat management area boundary changes also include removing some areas of non-habitat that were added to PHMA by the 2015 ROD/ARMPA as part of the SFA designations. Additionally, in the West Owyhee Conservation Area, the circle of 60,706 acres of PHMA (Brown's Creek area) that is surrounded by IHMA will be re-designated as IHMA (see Map 1); 11,828 acres of non-Greater Sage-Grouse habitat managed as PHMA, in the Mountain Valleys Conservation Area, would be changed to non-habitat (Donkey Hills ACEC and mapping errors). (See Appendix A).	Potential change in Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
Objective SSS 3: Maintain a resilient population of GRSG in Idaho.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Objective SSS 4: Designate GRSG management areas and associated management to maintain a resilient population and to designate strategically located adjacent areas to provide a buffer from unpredictable habitat loss such as wildfire to the resilient population areas.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Objective SSS 5: Identify and strategically protect larger intact sagebrush areas and areas of lower fragmentation to maintain GRSG population persistence.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
MD SSS-I: Designate four GRSG Conservation Areas (see Glossary) within the subregion to form the geographic basis for achieving population objectives; evaluating the disturbance density and adaptive regulatory triggers; and tailor adaptive management responses. These conservation areas are depicted in Figure 2-14. These areas are referred to as Mountain Valleys, Desert, West Owyhee, and Southern Conservation Areas. <u>Conservation Area Description</u> Mountain Valleys Conservation Area – generally located north of the Snake River Plain, including GRSG habitat in the Salmon and Challis areas, and habitat in west-central population area. It extends west from Rexburg, north and west of Highway 33 to Howe, north and west of Highway 33/22 to Arco, north and west of Highway 26/20/93 to Carey, north and west of Highway 20 west to Hill City, north and west of Highway 20 to the Dylan Karaus Road, west to Canyon Creek. Canyon Creek to the confluence with the Snake River form the western boundary. Desert Conservation Area – located north of the Snake River and south of the Mountain Valleys Conservation Area. It extends from the confluence of Canyon Creek and the Snake River, eastward to Idaho Falls. The Snake River and Henry’s Fork form the eastern boundary. West Owyhee Conservation Area – located south of the Snake River and west of the Bruneau River. Southern Conservation Area – located south of the Snake River and east of the Bruneau River, including East Idaho uplands and Bear Lake Plateau, and the Utah portion of the Sawtooth National Forest in Box Elder County. In general, GRSG habitats in the Desert and West Owyhee CAs are relatively contiguous, while those in the Mountain Valleys and Southern CAs tend to be more fragmented due to more complex topography, and elevational differences and/or effects from wildfires, agriculture, urbanization or other factors.	No changes made.	Potential change in Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

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MD SSS 2: Within each Conservation Area designate GRSG Habitat Management Areas: Priority, Important and General Habitat Management Areas (Figure 2-1). Priority Habitat Management Areas (PHMA) focus on conserving the two key meta-populations in the subregion. PHMA encompasses areas with the highest conservation value to GRSG, based on the presence of larger leks, habitat extent, important movement and connectivity corridors and winter habitat. PHMA include adequate area to accommodate continuation of existing land uses and landowner activities. Important Habitat Management Areas (IHMA) contain additional habitat and populations that provide a management buffer for the PHMA and to connect patches of PHMA. IHMA encompasses areas of generally moderate to high conservation value habitat and/or populations and in some Conservation Areas includes areas beyond those identified by USFWS as necessary to maintain redundant, representative and resilient populations (Priority Areas for Conservation (PACs)). IHMA are typically adjacent to PHMA but generally reflect somewhat lower GRSG population status and/or reduced habitat value due to disturbance, habitat fragmentation or other factors. General Habitat Management Areas (GHMA) encompass habitat that is outside of PHMA or IHMA. GHMA contain approximately 10 percent of the occupied leks that are also of relatively low male attendance compared to leks in PHMA or IHMA. GHMA are generally characterized by lower quality disturbed or patchy habitat of low lek connectivity.	No changes made.	Potential change in Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD SSS 3: Designate PHMA and IHMA to encompass 90 percent of the breeding males in Idaho.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD SSS 4: Annually prioritize Conservation Areas at the state scale considering results of the annual adaptive regulatory trigger evaluations relative to implementation of restoration and mitigation activities.	No changes made.	Potential change in Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

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MD SSS 5: Prioritize activities and mitigation to conserve, enhance and restore GRSG habitats (i.e., fire suppression activities, fuels management activities, vegetation treatments, invasive species treatments etc.) first by Conservation Area, if appropriate (Conservation Area under adaptive management or at risk of meeting an adaptive management soft or hard trigger), followed by PHMA, then IHMA then GHMA within the Conservation Areas. Local priority areas within these areas will be further refined as a result of completing the GRSG Wildfire and Invasive Species Habitat Assessments as described in Appendix H. This can include projects outside GRSG habitat when those projects will provide a benefit to GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	Potential change in Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD SSS 6: The management area map and Biologically Significant Unit (BSU) baseline map will be re- evaluated in conjunction with plan evaluation processes (i.e. approximately every 5 years). This re- evaluation can indicate the need to adjust PHMA, IHMA or GHMA or the habitat baseline. These adjustments can occur upon completion of the appropriate analysis and process (e.g., plan amendment) to review the allocation decisions based on the map. Results from the Wildfire and Invasive Species Assessments, such as identified focal or emphasis areas will also be used to help inform mapping adjustments during this evaluation.	MD SSS 6: The management area map and Biologically Significant Unit (BSU) baseline map will be re- evaluated in conjunction with plan evaluation processes (i.e. approximately every 5 years). This re- evaluation can indicate the need to adjust Conservation Area Boundaries, PHMA, IHMA or GHMA or the habitat or the population baselines. These adjustments can occur upon completion of the appropriate analysis and process (e.g., plan maintenance in coordination with the teams identified in MD SSS 44) to review the allocation decisions based on the map. Results from the Wildfire and Invasive Species Assessments, such as identified focal or emphasis areas will also be used to help inform mapping adjustments during this evaluation.	No change proposed.
MD SSS 7: GRSG habitat within the project area will be assessed during project-level NEPA analysis within the management area designations (PHMA, IHMA, GHMA). Project proposals and their effects will be evaluated based on the habitat and values affected.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

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MD SSS 8: Idaho BLM will annually update the Key Habitat map, in order to reflect habitat changes resulting from wildfire, succession, and vegetation treatments that occurred or were observed since the last update. Key habitat includes areas of generally intact sagebrush that provide sage-grouse habitat during some portion of the year. This map also identifies potential restoration areas (perennial grassland annual grasslands, conifer encroachment and recent burns). This map a broad scale current vegetation map that changes as habitat is lost or restored. The Key Habitat Map is not an allocation decision such as PHMA, IHMA, and GHMA. Updates to the map will also occur if it is determined that mapping errors or omissions have occurred, or that radio-telemetry studies indicate that GRSG are consistently utilizing an area. Updates are also intended to capture recommendations by the field offices, GRSG Local Working Groups, or agency partners in GRSG conservation. Project-level evaluations of GRSG habitat during the NEPA process can also be used to inform the annual update.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD SSS 9: Areas of habitat outside of delineated habitat management areas identified during the Key habitat update process will be evaluated during site specific NEPA for project level activities and GRSG required design features (Appendix C) and buffers (Appendix B) will be included as part of project design. These areas will be further evaluated during plan evaluation and the 5-year update to the management areas, to determine whether they should be included as PHMA, IHMA, or GHMA.	This decision has been deleted.	No change proposed.
MD SSS 10: Designate Sagebrush Focal Areas (SFA) as shown on Figure 1-2. SFA will be managed as PHMA, with the following additional management • Recommended for withdrawal from the General Mining Act of 1872, as amended, subject to valid existing rights. • Managed as NSO, without waiver, exception, or modification, for fluid mineral leasing. Prioritized for vegetation management and conservation actions in these areas, including, but not limited to land health assessments, wild horse and burro management actions, review of livestock grazing permits/leases, and habitat restoration (see specific management sections).	This decision has been deleted.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.

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Adaptive Management	Adaptive Management	—
MD SSS 11: Use hard and soft population and habitat triggers to determine an appropriate management response as described in MD SSS 16 to MD SSS 26. Hard and soft triggers responses are applied at the Conservation Area (MD SSS-I) scale (Appendix E).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD SSS 12: Utilize monitoring information collected through the Monitoring Framework (Appendix D) to determine when adaptive regulatory triggers have been met.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD SSS 13: BLM will maintain GRSG habitat information, through use of the Key Habitat map or latest sagebrush/vegetation map, which will be used to track and identify habitat changes to assess the habitat trigger in the adaptive management approach. Key habitat map updates are made each winter by BLM in coordination with the Forest Service and IDFG, using the process described in Appendix F of the FEIS.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD SSS 14: BLM will coordinate with the IDFG regarding population information collected and maintained by the IDFG to track and identify population changes to assess the population trigger in the adaptive management approach.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD SSS 15: The hard and soft trigger data will be analyzed as soon as it becomes available after the signing of the ROD, and twice each year thereafter the applicable monitoring information will be reviewed to determine if any adaptive management triggers have been met.	MD SSS 15: The data from the lek counts and the key habitat map update will be reviewed annually to determine if any hard or soft adaptive management triggers have been met.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD SSS 16: Adaptive habitat triggers will be individually calculated across all ownerships within the BSUs (Appendix E). The BSU is defined as the IDFG modeled nesting and wintering habitat (IDFG 2013, unpublished data) within PHMA and IHMA within a Conservation Area. The sagebrush component of the BSU is represented by the Key habitat within the BSU present during the 2011 baseline and as mapped during subsequent annual Key habitat map updates. Key habitat is defined as areas of generally intact sagebrush that provide GRSG habitat during some portion of the year (ISAC 2006).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD SSS 17: Habitat Hard Triggers are defined as: • A 20 percent loss of Key Habitat within the BSU of the PHMA of a Conservation Area when compared to the 2011 baseline, inclusive of all land ownerships or • A 20 percent loss of Key Habitat within the BSU of the IHMA of a Conservation Area when compared to the 2011 baseline.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.

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MD SSS 18: Habitat Soft Triggers are defined as: • A 10 percent loss of Key Habitat within the BSU of the PHMA of a Conservation Area when compared to the 2011 baseline; or • A 10 percent loss of Key Habitat within the BSU of the IHMA of a Conservation Area when compared to the 2011 baseline.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD SSS 19: Population Hard Triggers are defined as: • A 20 percent decline in the current 3-year average of total maximum number of males counted compared to the 2011 maximum male baseline and a finite rate of change (λ) significantly below 1.0 within PHMA within a Conservation Area over the same 3-year period; or • A 20 percent decline in the current 3-year average of total maximum number of males counted compared to the 2011 maximum male baseline and a finite rate of change (λ) significantly below 1.0 within IHMA within a Conservation Area over the same 3-year period. • Significance is defined by the 90 percent confidence interval around the current 3-year finite rate of change. If the 90 percent confidence interval is less than, and does not include 1.0, then the finite rate of change is considered significant. The finite rate of change and variance will be calculated following Garton et al. (2011).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.

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MD SSS 20: Population Soft Triggers are defined as: • A 10 percent decline in the current 3-year average of total maximum number of males counted compared to the 2011 maximum male baseline and a finite rate of change (λ) below 1.0 within PHMA within a Conservation Area over the same 3-year period; or • A 10 percent decline in the current 3-year average of total maximum number of males counted compared to the 2011 maximum male baseline and a finite rate of change (λ) below 1.0 within IHMA within a Conservation Area over the same 3-year period.	MD SSS 20: Population Soft Triggers are defined as: A. A 10 percent decline in the current 3-year average of total maximum number of males counted compared to the 2011 maximum male baseline and a finite rate of change (λ) below 1.0 within PHMA within a Conservation Area over the same 3-year period; or B. A 10 percent decline in the current 3-year average of total maximum number of males counted compared to the 2011 maximum male baseline and a finite rate of change (λ) below 1.0 within IHMA within a Conservation Area over the same 3-year period. Significance for soft triggers is defined by the 90 percent confidence interval around the current 3-year finite rate of change. If the 80 percent confidence interval is less than and does not include 1.0, then the finite rate of change is considered significant. The finite rate of change and variance will be calculated following Garton et al. (2011).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD SSS 21: When any of the Criteria for Soft Triggers have been met the Implementation Team will evaluate causal factors and recommend additional potential implementation level activities (Appendix E).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD SSS 22: When any of the Criteria for Hard Triggers have been met then all PHMA management actions will be applied to the IHMA within that Conservation Area and the Implementation Team will evaluate causal factors and recommend additional potential implementation level activities.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD SSS 23: If an adaptive regulatory trigger is tripped and livestock grazing is identified as a probable limiting factor then adjustments will follow the Adaptive Grazing Management Response described in Appendix E.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD SSS 24: Remove any adaptive management response when the habitat or maximum male population count (i.e., 3-year average) returns to or exceeds the 2011 baseline levels within the associated Conservation Area in accordance with the Adaptive Management Strategy (Appendix E). In such a case, changes in management allocations resulting from a tripped trigger will revert back to the original allocation (MD SSS 22).	MD SSS 24: Remove the automatic hard trigger adaptive management response when the habitat or maximum male population count (i.e., 3-year average) returns to or exceeds the 2011 baseline levels within the associated Conservation Area, in accordance with the Adaptive Management Strategy (Appendix E). In such a case, changes in management allocations resulting from a tripped trigger will revert to the original allocation (MD SSS 22).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.

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MD SSS 26: When a hard trigger is hit in a BSU within a PAC that has multiple BSUs, including those that cross state lines, the WAFWA Management Zone Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Team will convene to determine the causal factor, put project-level responses in place, as appropriate and discuss further appropriate actions to be applied. The team will also investigate the status of the hard triggers in other BSUs within the PAC and will invoke the appropriate plan response.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
Anthropogenic Disturbance	Anthropogenic Disturbance	—
MD SSS 27: If the 3 percent anthropogenic disturbance cap is exceeded on lands (regardless of land ownership) within GRSG PHMA (or IHMA in Idaho) Habitat Management Areas in any given BSU, then no further discrete anthropogenic disturbances (subject to applicable laws and regulations, such as the General Mining Law of 1872, as amended, valid existing rights, etc.) will be permitted by BLM within GRSG PHMA and IHMA in any given BSU until the disturbance has been reduced to less than the cap, as measured according to the Disturbance and Adaptive Management Appendix (Appendix E) for the intermediate scale. For Idaho, if the 3 percent disturbance cap is exceeded on all lands (regardless of land ownership) within a proposed project analysis area (Appendix E) in a PHMA (or IHMA in Idaho), then no further anthropogenic disturbance will be permitted by BLM until disturbance in the proposed project analysis area has been reduced to maintain the area under the cap (subject to applicable laws and regulations, such as the General Mining Law of 1872, as amended, valid existing rights, etc.). Within existing designated utility corridors, the 3% disturbance cap may be exceeded at the project scale if the site specific NEPA analysis indicates that a net conservation gain to the species will be achieved. This exception is limited to projects which fulfill the use for which the corridors were designated (ex., transmission lines, pipelines) and the designated width of a corridor will not be exceeded as a result of any project co-location. The BSU (Figure 2-2) is defined as the currently mapped nesting and wintering habitat within PHMA and IHMA within a Conservation Area,	MD SSS 27: If the 3 percent anthropogenic disturbance cap is exceeded on lands (regardless of land ownership) within GRSG PHMA (or IHMA in Idaho) Habitat Management Areas in any given BSU, then no further discrete anthropogenic disturbances (subject to applicable laws and regulations, such as the General Mining Law of 1872, as amended, valid existing rights, etc.) will be permitted by BLM within GRSG PHMA and IHMA in any given BSU until the disturbance has been reduced to less than the cap, as measured according to the Disturbance and Adaptive Management Appendix (Appendix E) for the intermediate scale. For Idaho, the BSU (Figure 2-2) is defined as the currently mapped nesting and wintering habitat within PHMA and IHMA within a Conservation Area, inclusive of all ownerships. Anthropogenic disturbance excludes habitat disturbance from wildfire and fuels management activities and includes the following developments (see Appendix E for further details): • Oil and Gas Wells and Development Facilities • Coal Mines • Wind Towers • Solar Fields • Geothermal Development Facilities • Mining (Active Locatable, Non-Energy Leasable and Salable Developments) • Roads • Railroads • Power lines • Communication Towers • Other Vertical Structures • Coal bed Methane Ponds	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.

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inclusive of all ownerships. Anthropogenic disturbance excludes habitat disturbance from wildfire and fuels management activities and includes the following developments (see Appendix E for further details): • Oil and Gas Wells and Development Facilities • Coal Mines • Wind Towers • Solar Fields • Geothermal Development Facilities • Mining (Active Locatable, Non-Energy Leasable and Saleable Developments) • Roads • Railroads • Power lines • Communication Towers • Other Vertical Structures • Coal bed Methane Ponds • Meteorological Towers (e.g., wind energy testing) • Nuclear Energy Facilities • Airport Facilities and Infrastructure • Military Range Facilities and Infrastructure • Hydroelectric Plants • Recreation Areas Facilities and infrastructure For Idaho this disturbance is measured by direct footprint or by ROW width for linear features (power lines, pipelines and roads). For Montana disturbance is measured similar to the Wyoming Disturbance Density Calculation Tool process described in Appendix E. Subject to applicable laws and regulations and valid existing rights, if the average density of one energy and mining facility per 640 acres (the density cap) is exceeded on all lands (regardless of land ownership) in the Priority Habitat Management Area within a proposed project analysis area, then no further disturbance from energy or mining facilities will be permitted by BLM: (1) until disturbance in the proposed project analysis area has been reduced to maintain the limit under the cap; or (2) unless the energy or mining facility is co-located into an existing disturbed area.	• Meteorological Towers (e.g., wind energy testing) • Nuclear Energy Facilities • Airport Facilities and Infrastructure • Military Range Facilities and Infrastructure • Hydroelectric Plants • Recreation Areas Facilities and infrastructure This disturbance is measured by direct footprint or by the distance between the outermost lines on transmission lines (Leu et al. 2008).	(See above.)

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MD SSS 28: New anthropogenic disturbances within PHMA or IHMA within a Conservation Area where the disturbance cap is already exceeded from any source or where the proposed development will result in the cap being exceeded will not be allowed in within that Conservation Area until enough habitat has been restored within that Conservation Area to maintain the area under this cap (subject to valid existing rights).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD SSS 29: New anthropogenic disturbances within PHMA (Idaho only): Anthropogenic Disturbance Screening Criteria. In order to avoid surface-disturbing activities in PHMA, priority will be given to development (including ROWs, fluid minerals and other mineral resources subject to applicable stipulations) outside of PHMA. When authorizing development in PHMA, priority will be given to development in non-habitat areas first and then in the least suitable habitat for GRSG. In addition to the PHMA and IHMA Anthropogenic Disturbance Development Criteria (MD SSS 30), the following criteria must all be met in the project screening and assessment process: - The population trend for the GRSG within the associated Conservation Area is stable or increasing over a three-year period and the population levels are not currently engaging the adaptive management triggers (this applies strictly to new authorizations; renewals and amendments of existing authorizations will not be subject to this criteria when it can be shown that long-term impacts from those renewals or amendments will be substantially the same as the existing development); - The development with associated mitigation will not result in a net loss of GRSG Key habitat and mitigation will provide a net conservation benefit to the respective PHMA; - The project and associated impacts will not result in a net loss of GRSG Key habitat or habitat fragmentation or other impacts causing a decline in the population of the species within the relevant Conservation Area (the project will be outside Key habitat in areas not meeting desired habitat conditions or the project will provide a benefit to habitat areas that are functioning in a limited way as habitat); - The development cannot be reasonably accomplished outside of the PHMA; or can be either: 1) developed pursuant to a valid existing authorization; or 2) is co-located within the	MD SSS 29: Subject to valid existing rights, new anthropogenic disturbances in PHMA: Anthropogenic Disturbance Screening Criteria. In order to avoid surface-disturbing activities in PHMA, priority will be given to development of rights-of-way (ROWs), fluid minerals, and other mineral resources subject to applicable stipulations outside of PHMA. When authorizing development in PHMA, priority will be given to development in non-habitat areas first and then in the least suitable habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse. In addition to the PHMA and IHMA anthropogenic disturbance development criteria (MD SSS 30), the BLM will ensure an applicant has worked with the State of Idaho to submit a proposal that meets the following criteria: - The population trend for the Greater Sage-Grouse in the associated conservation area is stable or increasing over a 3-year period and the population levels are not currently engaging the adaptive management triggers (this applies strictly to new authorizations; renewals and amendments of existing authorizations will not be subject to this criteria when it can be shown that long-term impacts from those renewals or amendments will be substantially the same as the existing development). - The development with associated design features, avoidance, minimization, or mitigation actions will not result in a net loss of Greater Sage-Grouse key habitat or of the respective PHMA. - The project, its design features, avoidance and minimization actions, and associated impacts will not result in a net loss of Greater Sage-Grouse key habitat or habitat fragmentation or other impacts causing a decline in the population of the species in the relevant conservation area. - The development cannot be reasonably accomplished outside of the PHMA or can be	No change proposed.

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footprint of existing infrastructure (proposed actions will not increase the 2011 authorized footprint and associated impacts more than 50 percent, depending on industry practice). e. Development will be implemented adhering to the required design features (RDF) described in Appendix C; f. The project will not exceed the disturbance cap (MD SSS 27) g. The project has been reviewed by the State Implementation Team and recommended for consideration by the Idaho Governor.	either developed pursuant to a valid existing authorization or collocated within the footprint of existing infrastructure. Proposed actions will not increase the 2011 authorized footprint and associated impacts more than 50 percent, depending on industry practice. e. Development will adhere to the RDFs described in Appendix C. f. The project will not exceed the disturbance cap (MD SSS 27). g. Large-scale anthropogenic disturbances in PHMA will be reviewed by the technical and policy teams, as described in MD SSS 44. (See the glossary for definition of large-scale anthropogenic disturbances.)	(See above.)
MD SSS 30: The following Anthropogenic Disturbance Development Criteria must be met in the screening and assessment process for proposals in PHMA and IHMA to discourage additional disturbance in PHMA and IHMA (as described in MD LR 2 and MD RE 1; applies to Idaho only): a. Through coordination with the USFWS and State of Idaho (as described in MD CC 1), it is determined that the project cannot be achieved, technically or economically, outside of this management area; and b. The project siting and/or design should best reduce cumulative impacts and/or impacts on GRSG and other high value natural, cultural, or societal resources; this may include co-location within the footprint for existing infrastructure, to the extent practicable; and c. The project results in a net conservation gain to GRSG Key habitat or with beneficial mitigation actions reduces habitat fragmentation or other threats within the Conservation Area; and d. The project design mitigates unavoidable impacts through appropriate compensatory mitigation; and e. Development will be implemented adhering to the RDFs described in Appendix C. f. The project will not exceed the disturbance cap (MD SSS 27).	MD SSS 30: The applicant will work with the State of Idaho to submit a proposal that meets all of the following anthropogenic disturbance development criteria in the screening and assessment process for proposals in PHMA and IHMA. This is to discourage additional disturbance in PHMA and IHMA (as described in MD LR 2 and MD RE 1): a. Through coordination with the State of Idaho (as described in MD CC 1), it is determined that the project cannot be achieved, technically or economically, outside of this management area b. The project siting and/or design should best reduce cumulative impacts and/or impacts on Greater Sage-Grouse and other high value natural, cultural, or societal resources; this may include collocation in the footprint for existing infrastructure, to the extent practicable c. The State of Idaho determines in coordination with BLM the project results in no net loss to Greater Sage-Grouse key habitat or, with mitigation actions, reduces habitat fragmentation or other threats in the conservation area; d. Development will adhere to the RDFs described in Appendix C e. The project will not exceed the disturbance cap (MD SSS 27) f. Large-scale anthropogenic disturbances in PHMA and IHMA will be reviewed by the technical and policy teams, as described in MD SSS 44.	No change proposed.

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MD SSS 31: Co-locating new infrastructure within existing ROWs and maintaining and upgrading ROWs is preferred over the creation of new ROWs or the construction of new facilities in all management area. Colocation for various activities is defined as: • Communication Sites – The installation of new equipment/facilities on or within or adjacent to existing authorized equipment/facilities or within a communication site boundary as designated in the Communication Site Plan. • Electrical Lines – Installation of new ROWs adjacent to current ROWs boundaries, not necessarily placed on the same power poles. • Other Rights-of-Way – The installation of new ROWs within the existing footprint of an approved ROW boundary or adjacent to an approved ROW boundary. • Designated Corridors – The installation of new rights-of-way within the existing corridor or adjacent to the existing corridor.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD SSS 32: Incorporate RDFs as described in Appendix C in the development of project or proposal implementation, reauthorizations or new authorizations and suppression activities, as conditions of approval (COAs) into any post-lease activities and as best management practices for locatable minerals activities, to the extent allowable by law, unless at least one of the following conditions can be demonstrated and documented in the NEPA analysis associated with the specific project: a. A specific RDF is not applicable to the site-specific conditions of the project or activity; b. A proposed design feature or BMP is determined to provide equal or better protection for GRSG or its habitat; or c. Analysis concludes that following a specific RDF will provide no more protection to GRSG or its habitat than not following it, for the project being proposed.	MD SSS 32: In PHMA and IHMA, incorporate RDFs as described in Appendix C, in developing the project or proposal implementation, reauthorizations or new authorizations, as conditions of approval (COAs) into any post-lease activities and as BMPs for locatable minerals activities, to the extent allowable by law, unless at least one of the following conditions can be demonstrated and documented in the NEPA analysis associated with the specific project: a. A specific RDF is not applicable to the site-specific conditions of the project or activity; b. A proposed design feature or BMP is determined to provide equal or better protection for GRSG or its habitat; or c. Analysis concludes that following a specific RDF will provide no more protection to GRSG or its habitat than not following it, for the project being proposed. In GHMA, the RDFs are considered BMPs that should be considered and applied, unless the proponent can show that applying the BMP is technically or economically impracticable.	No change proposed.
MD SSS 33: Conduct implementation and project activities, including construction and short-term anthropogenic disturbances consistent with seasonal habitat restrictions described in Appendix C.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

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MD SSS 34: RDFs and seasonal habitat restrictions will not be required for emergency or short-term activities necessary to protect and preserve human life or property.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD SSS 35: In undertaking BLM management actions, and consistent with valid and existing rights and applicable law in authorizing third-party actions, the BLM will apply the lek buffer-distances identified in the USGS Report Conservation Buffer Distance Estimates for Greater Sage-Grouse – A Review (Open File Report 2014-1239) in accordance with Appendix B .	MD SSS 35: In undertaking BLM management actions in PHMA, IHMA, and GHMA, and consistent with valid and existing rights and applicable law in authorizing third-party actions, the BLM will apply the lek buffer-distances in accordance with Appendix B . The buffers do not apply to vegetation treatments specifically designed to improve or protect Greater Sage-Grouse habitat; however, impacts on leks should be analyzed and those impacts should be minimized to the extent practicable.	No change proposed.
MD SSS 36: Incorporate appropriate conservation measures for slickspot peppergrass (<i>Lepidium papilliferum</i>) as described in the 2014 Conservation Agreement (as updated, amended or reauthorized) into implementation and project design within slickspot peppergrass habitat in the Jarbidge and Four Rivers Field Offices to avoid and minimize impacts on slickspot peppergrass.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Monitoring	Monitoring	—
MD SSS 37: Once FIAT Assessments are complete, annually complete a review of FIAT Assessment implementation efforts within GRSG habitat with appropriate USFWS and state agency personnel.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD SSS 38: Monitor the effectiveness of projects (e.g., fuel breaks, fuels treatments) until objectives have been met or until it is determined that objectives cannot be met, according to the monitoring schedule identified for project implementation.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD SSS 39: Monitor invasive vegetation post vegetation management treatment.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD SSS 40: Monitor project construction areas for noxious weed and invasive species for at least 3 years, unless control is achieved earlier.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD SSS 41: Use lek, nesting and winter habitat maps and key habitat map (updates) to annually assess GRSG population and habitat status in the context of the adaptive management triggers.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD SSS 42: Continue to support updates to the Key Habitat map to track vegetation changes in relation to GRSG habitat on a yearly basis, until such a time this process is replaced. The process used to update the Key Habitat Map is described in Appendix F of the FEIS.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

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MD SSS 43: Monitor GRSG habitat as described in the monitoring framework plan (Appendix D) in coordination with IDFG.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
—	MD SSS 44: In collaboration with the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and potentially other state and federal agencies, the BLM will form two teams (a technical team and a policy team) through a memorandum of understanding. These teams will be responsible for reviewing proposed infrastructure developments, exceptions, variances, adaptive management triggers and responses, habitat management area adjustments, and mitigation, as described in detail in Appendix K .	No change proposed.
VEGETATION (VEG)	VEGETATION (VEG)	—
Objectives:	Objectives:	—
Objective VEG 1: Reconnect and expand areas of higher native plant community integrity/rangeland health to increase the extent of high quality habitat and, where possible, to accommodate the future effects of climate change.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Objective VEG 2: Increase the amount and functionality of seasonal habitats by: a. Increasing or enhancing canopy cover and average patch size of sagebrush. b. Increasing the amount, condition and connectivity of seasonal habitats. c. Protecting or improving GRSG migration/movement corridors. d. Reducing conifer encroachment within GRSG seasonal habitats. e. Improving understory (grass, forb) and/or riparian condition within breeding and late brood- rearing habitats. f. Reducing the extent of annual grasslands within and adjacent to PHMA and IHMA. Decadal treatment objectives by population area are identified in Table 2-3 , Estimated Acres of Treatment Needed within a 10-Year Period to Achieve Vegetation Objectives on BLM-Administered Lands I.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

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Objective VEG 3: In all SFA and PHMA, the desired condition is to maintain all lands ecologically capable of producing sagebrush (but no less than 70%) with a minimum of 15% sagebrush canopy cover or as consistent with specific ecological site conditions. The attributes necessary to sustain these habitats are described in Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health (BLM Tech Ref 1734-6).	This decision has been deleted.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
Sagebrush Steppe:	Sagebrush Steppe:	—
MD VEG 1: Implement habitat rehabilitation or restoration projects in areas that have potential to improve GRSG habitat using a full array of treatment activities as appropriate, including chemical, mechanical and seeding treatments.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 2: Implement vegetation rehabilitation or manipulation projects to enhance sagebrush cover or to promote diverse and healthy grass and forb understory to achieve the greatest improvement in GRSG habitat based on FIAT Assessments, HAF assessments, other vegetative assessment data and local, site specific factors that indicate sagebrush canopy cover or herbaceous conditions do not meet habitat management objectives (i.e. is minimal or exceeds optimal characteristics). This may necessitate the use of prescribed fire as a site preparation technique to remove annual grass residual growth prior to the use of herbicides in the restoration of certain lower elevation sites (e.g., Wyoming big sagebrush) but such efforts will be carefully planned and coordinated to minimize impacts on GRSG seasonal habitats.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 3: Require use of native seeds for restoration based on availability, adaptation (ecological site potential), and probability of success (Richards et al. 1998). Non-native seeds may be used as long as they support GRSG habitat objectives (Pyke 2011) to increase probability of success, when adapted seed availability is low or to compete with invasive species especially on harsher sites.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 4: Implement management changes in restoration and rehabilitation areas, as necessary, to maintain suitable GRSG habitat, improve unsuitable GRSG habitat and to ensure long-term persistence of improved GRSG habitat (Eiswerth and Shonkwiler 2006). Management changes can be considered during livestock grazing permit renewals, travel management planning, and renewal or reauthorization of ROWs.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

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MD VEG 5: Consider establishing seed harvest areas that are managed for seed production (Armstrong 2007) to provide a reliable source of locally adapted seed to use during rehabilitation and restoration activities.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 6: Allocate use of native seed to GRSG or ESA listed species habitat in years when preferred native seed is in short supply. This may require reallocation of native seed from ESR projects outside of PHMA or IHMA to those inside it. Where probability of success or native seed availability is low, nonnative seeds may be used as long as they meet GRSG habitat conservation objectives (Pyke 2011). Re-establishment of appropriate sagebrush species/subspecies and important understory plants, relative to site potential, shall be the highest priority for rehabilitation efforts.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 7: During land health assessments, evaluate the relative value of existing nonnative seeding within GRSG habitat as: 1) a component of a grazing system allowing improvement of adjacent native vegetation, 2) development of a forage reserve, 3) incorporation into a fuel break system (Davies et al. 2011) or 4) restoration/diversification for GRSG habitat improvement. Where appropriate and feasible, diversify seedings, or restore to native vegetation when potential benefits to GRSG habitat outweigh the other potential uses of the non-native seeding, with emphasis on PHMA and IHMA. Allow recolonization of seedings by sagebrush and other native vegetation.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Conifer Encroachment:	Conifer Encroachment:	—
MD VEG 8: Remove conifers encroaching into sagebrush habitats, in a manner that considers tribal cultural values. Prioritize treatments closest to occupied GRSG habitats and near occupied leks, and where juniper encroachment is phase 1 or phase 2. Use of site-specific analysis and tools like the FIAT report (Chambers et. al., 2014) will help refine the location for specific areas to be treated.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Invasive Species:	Invasive Species:	—
MD VEG 9: Incorporate results of the FIAT Assessments into projects and activities addressing invasive species as appropriate.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

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MD VEG 10: Implement noxious weed and invasive species control using integrated vegetation management actions per national guidance and local weed management plans for Cooperative Weed Management Areas in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, affected counties, and adjoining private lands owners.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 11: Conduct integrated weed management actions for noxious and invasive weed populations that are impacting or threatening GRSG habitat quality using a variety of eradication and control techniques including chemical, mechanical and other appropriate means.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 12: Require project proponent (projects described in MD SSS 27 and which are included in the anthropogenic disturbance cap evaluation) to ensure that noxious weeds and invasive species caused as a result of the project are treated to eliminate establishment on the disturbed project construction areas for at least 3 years and monitored and treated during the life of the project.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 13: Treat areas that contain cheatgrass and other invasive or noxious species to minimize competition and favor establishment of desired species.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
FIRE AND FUELS MANAGEMENT (FIRE)	FIRE AND FUELS MANAGEMENT (FIRE)	—
Objectives:	Objectives:	—
Objective FIRE 1: Design fuel treatments to restore, enhance, or maintain GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Objective FIRE 2: Manage wildfires to minimize loss of sagebrush and protect GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions:	Management Decisions:	—
<u>Pre-Suppression:</u>	<u>Pre-Suppression:</u>	—
MD FIRE 1: (Wildfire Preparedness): Support development and implementation of Rangeland Fire Protection Associations (RFPAs) in coordination with the State of Idaho.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 2: Develop a consistent approach to fire restrictions within GRSG habitat through the existing coordinated inter-agency approach to fire restrictions based upon National Fire Danger Rating System thresholds (fuel conditions, drought conditions, and predicted weather patterns).	No changes made.	No change proposed.

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MD FIRE 3: Annually incorporate into existing fire management plans results and updates from the Wildfire and Invasive Species Habitat Assessments (FIAT Assessments) described in Appendix H , to communicate/explain the resource value of GRSG habitat, including fire prevention messages and actions to reduce human-caused ignitions.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 4: Continue to participate with the Wildland Fire Leadership Council, a cooperative, interagency organization dedicated to achieving consistent implementation of the goals, actions, and policies in the National Fire Plan and the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 5: Continue annual coordination meetings held between cooperating agencies that have fire suppression responsibilities. Incorporate Rangeland Fire Protection Associations and other stakeholders into this coordination. Discuss priority suppression areas and distribute maps showing priority suppression areas at both the Conservation Area and the local office levels as based on the adaptive management strategy and FIAT Assessments.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 6: Ensure firefighter personnel receive annual orientation regarding GRSG habitat and sagebrush management issues as related to wildfire suppression.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 7: As part of the FIAT Assessments, identify roads, trails, and recreational use areas with high frequency of human caused fires within or adjacent to the PHMA or IHMA. Consider these areas during annual fire restriction evaluations, and as appropriate, through site specific management.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 8: Coordinate with Federal, State and local jurisdictions on fire and litter prevention programs to reduce human caused ignitions.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 9: Implement activities identified within the FIAT Assessments.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

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Suppression:	Suppression:	—
MD FIRE 10: Complete Wildland Fire and Invasive Species Assessments (FIAT Assessments) as described within Appendix H and incorporate results into appropriate Fire Management Plans as they are completed. FIAT Assessments are interdisciplinary evaluations of the threats posed by wildfire and invasive species, as well as identification of focal and emphasis habitats/treatment opportunities for fuels management, fire management, and restoration. These FIAT Assessments identify focal and emphasis habitats and describe strategies for fuels management, suppression and restoration activities. Focal and Emphasis Habitats identified through the FIAT Assessment to further refine priority areas for treatments to reduce the threats posed by wildfire, invasive annual grass and conifer expansion.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 11: As part of the FIAT Assessments incorporate a wildfire response time analysis focusing on response time to identified priority areas within PHMA and IHMA or on those fires that have the potential to impact PHMA and IHMA. Incorporate findings into Unit Initial Attack program that determines initial attack resources.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 12: As part of the FIAT Assessment incorporate a water capacity analysis for suppression purposes, including potential private water sources. Utilized the analysis to ensure water availability for response to fire in or threatening PHMA and IHMA during initial attack.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 13: During high fire danger conditions, stage initial attack and secure additional resources closer to priority areas identified in the FIAT Assessments, based on anticipated fires and weather conditions, with particular consideration of the West Owyhee, Southern and Desert Conservation Areas to ensure quicker response times in or near GRSG habitat after considerations and placement of resources to protect human life and property.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD FIRE 14: Utilize a full range of fire management strategies and tactics through strategic wildfire suppression planning consistent with appropriate management response and within acceptable risk levels, to achieve resource objectives for GRSG habitat consistent with land use plan direction. Utilizing both direct and indirect attack as appropriate to limit the overall amount of GRSG habitat burned. This can include suppressing fires in intact sagebrush habitats; limiting fire growth in GHMA when suppression resources are available or managing wildfire for resource benefit in areas of conifer (juniper) encroachment.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 15: Suppression priorities: The protection of human life is the single, overriding priority. Setting priorities among protecting human communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources will be done based on the values to be protected, human health and safety, and the costs of protection. Maintaining GRSG habitat will be the highest natural resources priority immediately after human life and property, commensurate with threatened and endangered species habitat or other critical habitats to be protected.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 16: Ensure close coordination with federal and state firefighters including the Rangeland Fire Protection Associations during suppression activities.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Fuels Management:	Fuels Management:	—
MD FIRE 17: Design and implement fuels treatments that will reduce the potential start and spread of unwanted wildfires and provide anchor points or control lines for the containment of wildfires during suppression activities with an emphasis on maintaining, protecting, and expanding sagebrush ecosystems and successfully rehabilitated areas and strategically and effectively reduce wildfire threats in the greatest area.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 18: Enhance (or maintain/retain) sagebrush canopy cover and community structure to match expected potential for the ecological site and consistent with GRSG habitat objectives unless fuels management objectives requires additional reduction in sagebrush cover to meet strategic protection of GRSG habitat. Closely evaluate the benefits of the fuel management treatments against the additional loss of sagebrush cover on the local landscape in the NEPA process.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

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MD FIRE 19: Apply appropriate seasonal restrictions for implementing vegetation and fuels management treatments according to the type of seasonal habitats present. Allow no treatments in known winter range unless the treatments are designed to strategically reduce wildfire risk around and/or in the winter range and will protect, maintain, increase, or enhance winter range habitat quality. Ensure chemical applications are utilized where they will assist in success of fuels treatments. Strategically place treatments on a landscape scale to prevent fire from spreading into PHMA or WUI.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 20: Develop a fuels continuity and management strategy to expand, enhance, maintain and protect GRSG habitat informed by the FIAT Assessments completed as described in Appendix H .	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 21: When developing the fuels management strategy as part of the FIAT Assessment described in Appendix H consider up-to-date fuels profiles; land use plan direction; current and potential habitat fragmentation; sagebrush and GRSG ecological factors; active vegetation management steps to provide critical breaks in fuel continuity where appropriate; incorporate a comparative risk analysis with regard to the risk of increased habitat fragmentation from a proposed action versus the risk of large scale fragmentation posed by wildfires if the action is not taken.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 22: Fuel treatments will be designed through an interdisciplinary process to expand, enhance, maintain, and protect GRSG habitat which considers a full range of cost effective fuel reduction techniques, including: chemical, biological (including grazing and targeted grazing), mechanical and prescribed fire treatments.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 23: Existing and proposed linear ROWs can be considered for use and maintenance as vegetated fuel breaks in appropriate areas (this activity may or may not be part of the ROW permit or the responsibility of the permit holder, in cases where this activity is considered part of mitigation for project design then it will be appropriately included as part of the ROW permit and the responsibility of the permit holder for development and maintenance).	No changes made.	No change proposed.

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MD FIRE 24: Fuel breaks will incorporate existing vegetation treatments (seedings), rocky areas or other appropriate topography or features or be located adjacent to existing linear disturbance areas where appropriate. Fuel breaks should be placed in areas with the greatest likelihood of compartmentalizing a fire and/or to foster suppression options to protect existing intact habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 25: Strategically pre-treat areas to reduce fine fuels consistent with areas and results identified within the Wildfire and Invasive Species Assessments.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 26: Protect vegetation restoration and rehabilitation efforts/projects from subsequent fire events.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 27: Targeted grazing as a fuels treatment to adjust the vegetation conditions to reduce the potential start and spread of wildfires may be implemented within existing grazing authorizations if feasible such as through temporary non-renewable authorizations, or through contracts, agreements or other appropriate means separate from existing grazing authorizations and permits.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 28: Targeted grazing to achieve fuels management objectives should conform to the following criteria: a. Targeted grazing should be implemented strategically on the landscape, and directly involve the minimum footprint and grazing intensity required to meet fuels management objectives. b. Conform to the applicable Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management at the assessment scale (pasture/watershed). c. Where feasible and applicable coordinate with the grazing permittee to strategically reduce fuels through livestock management within the Mandatory Terms and Conditions of the applicable grazing authorizations	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 29: Prioritize the use of native seeds for fuels management treatment based on availability, adaptation (site potential), and probability of success. Where probability of success or native seed availability is low or non-economical, nonnative seeds may be used to meet GRSG habitat objectives to trend toward restoring the fire regime. When reseeding, use fire resistant native and nonnative species, as appropriate, to provide for fuel breaks.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

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MD FIRE 30: Maintain effectiveness of fuels projects, including fuel breaks, to ensure long-term success, including persistence of seeded species and/or other treatment components while maintaining the integrity of adjacent vegetation.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 31: If prescribed fire is used in GRSG habitat, the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan will address: • why alternative techniques were not selected as a viable options; • how GRSG goals and objectives will be met by its use; • how the COT Report objectives will be addressed and met; • a risk assessment to address how potential threats to GRSG habitat will be minimized. Allow prescribed fire as a vegetation or fuels treatment in Wyoming big sagebrush sites or other xeric sagebrush species sites, or in areas with a potential for post-fire exotic annual dominance only after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Prescribed fire can be used to meet specific fuels objectives that will protect Greater Sage-Grouse habitat in PHMA (e.g., creation of fuel breaks that will disrupt the fuel continuity across the landscape in stands where annual invasive grasses are a minor component in the understory, burning slash piles from conifer reduction treatments, used as a component with other treatment methods to combat annual grasses and restore native plant communities). Allow prescribed fire in known sage-grouse winter range only after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Any prescribed fire in winter habitat will need to be designed to strategically reduce wildfire risk around and/or in the winter range and designed to protect winter range habitat quality.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Post Fire Management:	Post Fire Management:	—
MD FIRE 32: Utilize the findings and Restoration/Rehabilitation Strategy developed as part of the FIAT Assessment process described in Appendix H to determine if GRSG rehabilitation actions are needed, based on ecological potential, and direct emergency stabilization and rehabilitation (ESR) (BLM) actions after fire.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

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MD FIRE 33: Incorporate GRSG Habitat Management Objectives into ESR/BAER plans based on site potential and in accordance with the Restoration/Rehabilitation Strategy developed as a result of the FIAT Assessments.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 34: Provide adequate rest from livestock grazing to allow natural recovery of existing vegetation and successful establishment of seeded species within burned/ESR areas. All new seedlings of grasses and forbs should not be grazed until at least the end of the second growing season, and longer as needed to allow plants to mature and develop robust root systems which will stabilize the site, compete effectively against cheatgrass and other invasive annuals, and remain sustainable under long-term grazing management. Adjust other management activities, as appropriate, to meet ESR objectives.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 35: Adjust, as appropriate, livestock management on adjacent unburned areas to mitigate the effect of the burn on local GRSG populations.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 36: Following seedling establishment, modify grazing management practices if needed to achieve long-term vegetation and habitat objectives.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
LIVESTOCK GRAZING (LG)	LIVESTOCK GRAZING (LG)	—
Management Decisions:	Management Decisions:	—
MD LG 1: Maintain existing areas designated as available or unavailable for livestock grazing. Existing active AUMs for livestock grazing within the planning area will not be changed at the broad scale, though the number of AUMs available on an allotment may be adjusted based on site-specific conditions to meet management objectives during term permit renewals, AMP development, or other appropriate implementation planning. Additionally, temporary adjustments can be made annually to livestock numbers, the number of AUMs, and season of use in accordance with applicable regulations.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD LG 2: Prioritize BLM land health assessments and processing of BLM grazing permits consistent with management area prioritization (MD SSS 4), unless other higher priority considerations exist (MD LG 15) or other factors such as threatened, endangered and proposed species habitat that livestock grazing can affect. Where possible, conduct land health assessments at the watershed, or other meaningful landscape-scale.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.

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MD LG 3: Where opportunities exist, coordinate with other land managers to encourage livestock operations that utilize mixed federal, private and/or state land to be managed at the landscape scale to benefit GRSG and their habitat across land ownerships.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD LG 4: PHMA & IHMA: During the land health assessment process, identify the type(s) of seasonal habitat the assessed areas are capable of supporting. Utilize the habitat assessment framework, (Stiver et al. 2015) or other BLM approved methodology, in accordance with current policy and guidance to determine whether vegetation structure, condition and composition are meeting GRSG habitat objectives including riparian and lentic areas (Objective SSS 2; Table 2-2). Use appropriate Ecological Site Descriptions, reference sheets and state and transition models to inform desired habitat conditions and expected responses to management changes for the land unit being assessed.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD LG 5: When modifying grazing management, analyze indirect impacts on habitat, including changes in fuel loading and wildfire behavior.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD LG 6: When livestock management practices are determined to not be compatible with meeting or making progress towards achievable habitat objectives following appropriate consultation, cooperation and coordination, implement changes in grazing management through grazing authorization modifications, or allotment management plan implementation. Potential modifications include, but are not limited to, changes in: • Season or timing of use; • Numbers of livestock; • Distribution of livestock use; • Duration and/or level of use; • Kind of livestock (e.g., cattle, sheep, horses, or goats) (Briske et al. 2011); and • Grazing schedules (including rest or deferment). *Not in Priority Order	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.

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MD LG 7: Where opportunities exist, establish forage reserves to facilitate restoration and rehabilitation efforts in GRSG habitat areas. A forage reserve is an area that is set aside for use as needed by various permittees who might be displaced by wildfire, ESR, restoration efforts, etc. rather than having a term permit issued for grazing like a regular allotment.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD LG 8: PHMA & IHMA - Where practical, design pasture rotations to utilize non-native perennial grass seedings and/or annual grasslands, during GRSG nesting season annually or periodically.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD LG 9: Evaluate the locations where salt/supplements are placed, coordinate salt/supplements placement to reduce impacts on GRSG habitat (e.g., existing disturbed areas).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD LG 10: Incorporate RDFs into Terms and Conditions for crossing permits to limit disturbance of occupied leks when trailing livestock across BLM administered lands in the spring. Work with permittees in locating over-nighting, watering and bedding locations to minimize impacts on seasonal habitats.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD LG 11: Design any new structural range improvements, following appropriate cooperation, consultation and coordination, to minimize and/or mitigate impacts on GRSG habitat. Any new structural range improvements should be placed along existing disturbance corridors or in unsuitable habitat, to the extent practical, and are subject to RDFs (Appendix C). Structural range improvement in this context, include, but are not limited to: fences, exclosures, corrals or other livestock handling structures; pipelines, troughs, storage tanks (including moveable tanks used in livestock water hauling), windmills, ponds/reservoirs, solar panels and spring developments.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD LG 12: During the land health assessment and grazing permit renewal process, evaluate existing livestock management range improvements with respect to their effect on GRSG habitat. Consider removal of projects that are not needed for effective livestock management, are no longer in working condition, and/or negatively affect GRSG habitat, with the exception of functional projects needed for management of habitat for other threatened, endangered or proposed species or other sensitive resources.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.

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MD LG 13: Prioritize removal, modification or marking of fences or other structures in areas of high collision risk following appropriate cooperation, consultation and coordination to reduce the incidence of GRSG mortality due to fence strikes (Stevens et al. 2012).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD LG 14: In response to weather conditions (i.e. drought) adjust grazing management (i.e., delay turnout, adjust pasture rotations, adjust the amount and/or duration of grazing) as appropriate to provide for adequate food and cover for GRSG.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD LG 15: The BLM will prioritize (1) the review of grazing permits/leases, in particular to determine if modification is necessary prior to renewal, and (2) the processing of grazing permits/leases in Sagebrush Focal Areas (SFA) followed by PHMA outside of the SFA. In setting workload priorities, precedence will be given to existing permits/leases in these areas not meeting Land Health Standards, with focus on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows. Management and conservation action prioritization will occur at the Conservation Area (CA) scale and be based on GRSG population and habitat trends: Focusing management and conservation actions first in SFA followed by areas of PHMA outside SFA. The BLM may use other criteria for prioritization to respond to urgent natural resource concerns (e.g., fire) and legal obligations.	MD LG 15: Generally, the BLM will prioritize (1) the review of grazing permits/leases, in particular to determine if modification is necessary prior to renewal, and (2) the processing of grazing permits/leases based on land health conditions or concerns related to rangeland health standards. If similar issues are found in both PHMA and IHMA, then those in PHMA should be addressed first. In setting workload priorities, precedence will be given to existing permits/leases in these areas not meeting land health standards and that have declining Greater Sage-Grouse populations, defined by a soft or hard population adaptive management trigger being engaged. Greater Sage-Grouse populations that are stable or trending upward will be a lower priority for permit renewal and the assessment process. The BLM may use other criteria for prioritization to respond to urgent natural resource concerns, such as fire, and legal obligations.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD LG 16: The NEPA analysis for renewals and modifications of livestock grazing permits/leases that include lands within SFA and PHMA will include specific management thresholds, based on GRSG Habitat Objectives Table, Land Health Standards (43 CFR 4180.2) and ecological site potential, and one or more defined responses that will allow the authorizing officer to make adjustments to livestock grazing that have already been subjected to NEPA analysis.	MD LG 16: Grazing in the PHMA and IHMA will be managed according to the process outlined in the text below, and the grazing permit renewal process will be managed according to 43 CFR 4100, Subpart 4180, and as outlined in the process below. Incorporate the Greater Sage-Grouse desired conditions in Table 2.2 [of the 2015 Final EIS] and management considerations as desired conditions, and manage livestock grazing, recognizing that these conditions may not be achievable: (1) due to the existing ecological condition, ecological potential, or existing vegetation; or (2) due to causal events unrelated to existing livestock grazing; and 3) that they are not intended to be prescriptive at the allotment level. a. Conduct habitat assessments using	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.

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(See above.)	appropriate monitoring methods. Where appropriate, make a determination of factors causing any failure to achieve the desired conditions in Table 2.2 [of the 2015 Final EIS]. The assessment will be conducted at a resolution and scale sufficient to document the habitat condition and will include local, spatial, and interannual variability. Any determination relative to the habitat characteristics (Table 2.2 [of the 2015 Final EIS]) will be based on existing ecological condition, ecological potential, and existing vegetation information. This is to ensure the assessment recognizes whether these habitat characteristics are achievable. b. The assessment will rely on published characteristics of Greater Sage-Grouse habitat and the ecological site descriptions, on Table 2.2 [of the 2015 Final EIS as amended], and where available and applicable, rangeland health determinations made in accordance with 43 CFR 4180.2(c). c. After conducting the assessment in (b), above, if the current grazing system achieves applicable Idaho rangeland health standards, absent substantial and compelling information, no further grazing management changes are necessary to achieve desired conditions for Greater Sage-Grouse habitat. d. If the process and conditions outlined in (b), above demonstrate that livestock grazing is limiting achievement of the desired conditions (Table 2.2 [of the 2015 Final EIS]), renewed permits will include measures, including but not limited to the actions outlined in Appendix C to achieve desired habitat conditions. These measures must be tailored to address the specific management issues. e. Adaptive management changes related to existing grazing permits should be undertaken only where improper grazing is determined to be the causal factor in not meeting habitat characteristics, specific to site capability, based on monitoring, with appropriate spatial variability. See Appendix C. f. Where management changes are needed and necessary pursuant to (f), above, implement management actions that are narrowly tailored to address the specific habitat objective applied at the allotment or activity plan level, including the actions outlined in Appendix C, Grazing Section of BMPs. (The	(See above.)

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(See above.)	Governor's plan is attached as Appendix I for references to this section.)	(See above.)
MD LG 17: Allotments within SFA, followed by those within PHMA, and focusing on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows, will be prioritized for field checks to help ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the grazing permits. Field checks can include monitoring for actual use, utilization, and use supervision. Management and conservation action prioritization will occur at the Conservation Area (CA) scale and be based on GRSG population and habitat trends: Focusing management and conservation actions first in SFA followed by areas of PHMA outside SFA.	MD LG 17: Allotments within PHMA with declining Greater Sage-Grouse populations, defined by a soft or hard adaptive management trigger being engaged and/or with land health concerns, will be prioritized for field checks.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD LG 18: At the time a permittee or lessee voluntarily relinquishes a permit or lease, the BLM will consider whether the public lands where that permitted use was authorized should remain available for livestock grazing or be used for other resource management objectives, such as reserve common allotments or fire breaks. This does not apply to or impact grazing preference transfers, which are addressed in 43 CFR 41.10.2-3.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
WILD HORSES AND BURROS (WHB)	WILD HORSES AND BURROS (WHB)	—
Management Decisions:	—	—
WHB-1: Manage herd management areas (HMAs) in GRSG habitat within established AML ranges to achieve and maintain GRSG habitat objectives (Table 2-2).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
WHB-2: Complete rangeland health assessments for HMAs containing GRSG habitat using an interdisciplinary team of specialists (e.g. range, wildlife, and riparian). The priorities for conducting assessments are: 1) HMAs Containing SFA; 2) HMAs containing PHMA; 3) HMAs containing IHMA; 4) HMAs containing GHMA; 5) HMAs containing sagebrush habitat outside of PHMA, IHMA, and GHMA mapped habitat; 6) HMAs without GRSG Habitat.	WHB-2: Complete rangeland health assessments for herd management areas containing GRSG habitat using an interdisciplinary team of range, wildlife, and riparian specialists. The priority for conducting assessments is herd management areas with known land health issues and where local populations of GRSG are in decline according to the adaptive management trigger standards. When similar issues are found in multiple herd management areas, then the priority should be: 1) herd management areas containing PHMA; 2) herd management areas containing IHMA; 3) herd management areas containing GHMA; 4) herd management areas containing GRSG habitat outside of PHMA, IHMA, and GHMA mapped habitat; 6) herd management areas without GRSG Habitat.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

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WHB-3: Prioritize gathers and population growth suppression techniques in HMAs in GRSG habitat, unless removals are necessary in other areas to address higher priority environmental issues, including herd health impacts. Place higher priority on Herd Areas not allocated as HMAs and occupied by wild horses and burros in SFA followed by PHMA.	WHB-3: Prioritize gathers and population growth suppression techniques in herd management areas in GRSG habitat, unless removals are necessary in other areas to address higher priority environmental issues, including herd health impacts. Place higher priority on Herd Areas not allocated as herd management areas and occupied by wild horses and burros in PHMA.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
WHB-4: In SFA and PHMA outside of SFA, assess and adjust AMLs through the NEPA process within HMAs when wild horses or burros are identified as a significant causal factor in not meeting land health standards, even if current AML is not being exceeded.	WHB-4: In PHMA, assess and adjust appropriate management levels (AMLs) through the NEPA process within herd management areas when wild horses or burros are identified as a significant causal factor in not meeting land health standards, even if current AML is not being exceeded.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
WHB-5: In SFA and PHMA outside of SFA, monitor the effects of wild horse and burro use in relation to GRSG seasonal habitat objectives on an annual basis to help determine future management actions.	WHB-5: In PHMA, monitor the effects of wild horse and burro use in relation to GRSG seasonal habitat objectives to help determine future management actions.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
WHB-6: Develop or amend herd management area plans (HMAPs) to incorporate GRSG habitat objectives and management considerations for all HMAs within GRSG habitat, with emphasis placed on SFA and other PHMA.	WHB-6: Develop or amend herd management area plans to incorporate GRSG habitat objectives and management considerations for all herd management areas in GRSG habitat, with emphasis placed on PHMA.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
WHB-7: Consider removals or exclusion of wild horse and burros during or immediately following emergency situations (such as fire, floods, and drought) to facilitate meeting GRSG habitat objectives where HMAs overlap with GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
WHB-8: When conducting NEPA analysis for wild horse and burro management activities, water developments, or other rangeland improvements for wild horses, address the direct and indirect impacts on GRSG populations and habitat. Implement any water developments or rangeland improvements using the criteria identified for domestic livestock.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
WHB-9: Coordinate with professionals from other federal and state agencies, researchers at universities, and others to utilize and evaluate new management tools (e.g., population growth suppression, inventory techniques, and telemetry) for implementing the wild horse and burro program.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MINERAL RESOURCES (MR)	MINERAL RESOURCES (MR)	—
Fluid Minerals	Fluid Minerals	—
Objective MR 1: Priority will be given to leasing and development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, outside of PHMA, IHMA, and GHMA. When analyzing leasing and authorizing development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, in PHMA, IHMA, and GHMA, and subject to applicable stipulations for the conservation of GRSG, priority will be given to development in non-habitat areas first and then in the least suitable habitat for GRSG. The implementation of these priorities will be subject to valid existing rights and any applicable law or regulation, including, but not limited to, 30 USC 226(p) and 43 CFR 3162.3-1(h).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
Objective MR 2: Where a proposed fluid mineral development project on an existing lease can adversely affect GRSG populations or habitat, the BLM will work with the lessees, operators, or other project proponents to avoid, minimize and apply compensatory mitigation to the extent compatible with lessees' rights to drill and produce fluid mineral resources. The BLM will work with the lessee, operator, or project proponent in developing an APD or Geothermal Drilling Permit (GDP) for the lease to avoid, minimize, and apply compensatory mitigation to impacts on GRSG or its habitat and will ensure that the best information about the GRSG and its habitat informs and helps to guide development of such Federal leases.	Objective MR 2: Where a proposed fluid mineral development project on an existing lease can adversely affect GRSG populations or habitat in PHMA, IHMA, and GHMA, the BLM will work with the lessees, operators, or other project proponents to avoid, minimize impacts to the extent compatible with lessees' rights to drill and produce fluid mineral resources. The BLM will work with the lessee, operator, or project proponent in developing an APD or Geothermal Drilling Permit (GDP) for the lease. This would be apply the mitigation hierarchy to impacts on GRSG or its habitat and will ensure that the best information about the GRSG and its habitat informs and helps to guide development of such Federal leases.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
MD MR 1: Idaho and Montana: Areas within SFA will be open to fluid mineral leasing and development and geophysical exploration subject to NSO without waiver, exception, or modification. Areas within PHMA (outside SFA) and IHMA will be open to mineral leasing and development and geophysical exploration subject to NSO with a limited exception (MD MR 3). GHMA will be open to mineral leasing and development and geophysical exploration subject to CSU which includes buffers and standard stipulations.	MD MR 1: Areas within PHMA and IHMA will be open to mineral leasing and development and geophysical exploration subject to NSO with a limited exception (MD MR 3). GHMA will be open to mineral leasing and development and geophysical exploration subject to CSU which includes buffers and standard stipulations and best management practices as identified in Appendix C (Required Design Features).	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD MR 2: In Idaho, parcels nominated for lease in PHMA or IHMA will be evaluated prior to lease offering to determine if development is feasible. In GHMA, parcels will not be offered for lease if buffers and restrictions (including RDFs) preclude development in the leasing area.	MD MR 2: Parcels nominated for lease in PHMA, IHMA, or GHMA will be evaluated prior to lease offering to determine if development is feasible.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

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MD MR 3: PHMA and IHMA: No waivers or modifications to a fluid mineral lease NSO stipulation will be granted. The Authorized Officer may grant an exception to a fluid mineral lease NSO stipulation only where the proposed action: i. Will not have direct, indirect, or cumulative effects on GRSG or its habitat; or, ii. Is proposed to be undertaken as an alternative to a similar action occurring on a nearby parcel, and will provide a clear conservation gain to GRSG. Exceptions based on conservation gain (ii) may only be considered in (a) PHMA of mixed ownership where federal minerals underlie less than fifty percent of the total surface, or (b) areas of the public lands where the proposed exception is an alternative to an action occurring on a nearby parcel subject to a valid Federal fluid mineral lease existing as of the date of this RMP amendment. Exceptions based on conservation gain must also include measures, such as enforceable institutional controls and buffers, sufficient to allow the BLM to conclude that such benefits will endure for the duration of the proposed action's impacts. Any exceptions to this lease stipulation may be approved by the Authorized Officer only with the concurrence of the State Director. The Authorized Officer may not grant an exception unless the applicable state wildlife agency, the USFWS, and the BLM unanimously find that the proposed action satisfies (i) or (ii). Such finding shall initially be made by a team of one field biologist or other GRSG expert from each respective agency. In the event the initial finding is not unanimous, the finding may be elevated to the appropriate BLM State Director, USFWS State Ecological Services Director, and state wildlife agency head for final resolution. In the event their finding is not unanimous, the exception will not be granted. Approved exceptions will be made publically available at least quarterly.	MD MR 3: PHMA and IHMA: No waivers or modifications to a fluid mineral lease NSO stipulation will be granted. The Authorized Officer may grant an exception to a fluid mineral lease NSO stipulation only where the proposed action: i. Will not have direct, indirect, or cumulative effects on GRSG or its habitat; or, ii. Is proposed to be undertaken as an alternative to a similar action occurring on a nearby parcel, and would provide no net loss to GRSG. Exceptions based on no net loss (ii) may only be considered in (a) PHMA of mixed ownership where federal minerals underlie less than fifty percent of the total surface, or (b) areas of the public lands where the proposed exception is an alternative to an action occurring on a nearby parcel subject to a valid Federal fluid mineral lease existing as of the date of this RMP amendment. Exceptions based on conservation gain must also include measures, such as enforceable institutional controls and buffers, sufficient to allow the BLM to conclude that such benefits will endure for the duration of the proposed action's impacts. Any exceptions to this lease stipulation may be approved by the Authorized Officer only with the concurrence of the State Director and in coordination with the Technical and Policy Team. Approved exceptions will be made publically available at least quarterly.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD MR 4: Incorporate required design features and best management practices appropriate to the management area as COAs when post leasing activity is proposed into any post-lease authorizations.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

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MD MR 6: Complete a Master Development Plan, consistent with plan development guide on leases where a producing field is proposed to be developed.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD MR 7: Encourage unitization when deemed necessary for proper development and operation of an area (with strong oversight and monitoring). The unitization must be designed in a manner to minimize adverse impacts on GRSG according to the Federal Lease Form, 3100-11, Sections 4 and 6.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD MR 8: Issue Written Orders of the Authorized Officer (43 CFR 3161.2) requiring reasonable protective measures consistent with the lease terms where necessary to avoid or minimize impacts on GRSG populations or habitat.	MD MR 8: Issue written orders of the authorized officer (43 CFR 3161.2) requiring reasonable protective measures consistent with the lease terms where necessary to avoid or minimize impacts on GRSG populations or habitat.	No change proposed.
Locatable Minerals	Locatable Minerals	—
MD MR 9: Apply reasonable and appropriate RDFs to locatable minerals, to the extent consistent with applicable law to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of GRSG habitat when a Plan of Operations is submitted for BLM approval, in accordance with 43 CFR 3809.411(d)(2).	No changes made.	Proposed change under Alternative 3.
MD MR 10: Recommend SFA for withdrawal from the General Mining Act of 1872, as amended, subject to valid existing rights.	This decision has been deleted.	Proposed change under Alternative 3.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Salable Minerals	Salable Minerals	—
MD MR 11: Idaho: PHMA are closed to new mineral materials sales. However, these areas remain “open” to free use permits and the expansion of existing active pits only if the following criteria are met: - the project area disturbance cap is not exceeded within a BSU; - the activity is subject to the provisions set forth in the mitigation framework [Appendix F]; - all applicable required design features are applied; and - the activity is permissible under the Idaho exception and development criteria (MD SSS 29 and MD SSS 30) - IHMA: All IHMA will be open to mineral materials development, consistent with the Idaho Anthropogenic Disturbance Criteria (MD SSS 30), and subject to RDFs, and buffers. Sales from existing community pits within IHMA will be subject to seasonal timing restrictions (Appendix C). - GHMA: All GHMA will be open to mineral materials development, subject to RDFs and buffers. Sales from existing community pits within GHMA will be subject to seasonal timing restrictions (Appendix C).	MD MR 11: PHMA: All PHMA will be closed to new mineral materials development, but continued use of existing pits will be allowed. New free use permits and the expansion of existing free use permits may be considered only if the following criteria are met: - the project area disturbance cap is not exceeded within a BSU; - the activity is subject to the provisions set forth in the mitigation framework [Appendix F]; - all applicable required design features are applied; and - the activity is permissible under the Idaho exception and development criteria (MD SSS 29 and MD SSS 30) - IHMA: All IHMA will be open to mineral materials development, consistent with the Idaho Anthropogenic Disturbance Criteria (MD SSS 30), and subject to RDFs, and buffers. - GHMA: All GHMA will be open to mineral materials development, subject to best management practices, as described in Appendix C.	Proposed change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD MR 12: Restore salable mineral pits no longer in use to meet GRSG habitat management objectives.	No changes made.	Proposed change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
MD MR 13: Require reclamation bonding that will require restoration of GRSG habitat on new site authorizations for mineral material pits in IHMA (this will not apply to free use permits issued to a government entity such as a county road district, but will apply to non-profit entities).	No changes made.	Proposed change under Alternatives 3 and 6.

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Nonenergy Leasable Minerals	Nonenergy Leasable Minerals	—
MD MR 15: PHMA are closed to leasing. IHMA and GHMA: Areas within Known Phosphate Leasing Areas (KPLAs) will remain open to leasing subject to standard stipulations. IHMA areas outside of KPLAs are open to prospecting and subsequent leasing provided the Anthropogenic Disturbance Development Criteria (MD SSS 30) and the anthropogenic disturbance cap (MD SSS 27) can be met. RDFs and buffers shall be applied to prospecting permits. GHMA: Lands outside KPLAs are available for prospecting and subsequent leasing and initial mine development subject to RDFs, buffers, and standard stipulations.	MD MR 15: PHMA are closed to leasing. IHMA and GHMA: Areas within Known Phosphate Leasing Areas (KPLAs) will remain open to leasing subject to standard stipulations. IHMA areas outside of KPLAs are open to prospecting and subsequent leasing provided the Anthropogenic Disturbance Development Criteria (MD SSS 30) and the anthropogenic disturbance cap (MD SSS 27) can be met. RDFs and buffers shall be applied to prospecting permits. GHMA: Lands outside KPLAs are available for prospecting and subsequent leasing and initial mine development subject to standard stipulations and best management practices as described in Appendix C.	Proposed change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
MD MR 16: Require seasonal and daily timing restrictions (Appendix C) in undeveloped nonenergy mineral leases when exploration activities or initial mine development is proposed (e.g. exploration drilling, timber removal, shrub clearing, etc.) as COAs.	No changes made.	Proposed change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
MD MR 17: Include RDFs as COAs to mine plans in undeveloped non-energy mineral leases for exploration activities or initial mine development.	No changes made.	Proposed change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
Mineral Split Estate	Mineral Split Estate	—
MD MR 19: BLM Owns Mineral Estate – non-federal surface owner: Where the federal government owns the mineral estate in PHMA, IHMA, and GHMA, and the surface is in non-federal ownership, apply the same stipulations, COAs, and/or conservation measures and RDFs applied if the mineral estate is developed on BLM-administered lands in that management area, to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities, and in coordination with the landowner.	No changes made.	Proposed change under Alternative 3.
MD MR 20: BLM owns surface – non-federal mineral estate owner: Where the federal government owns the surface and the mineral estate is in non-federal ownership in PHMA, IHMA, and GHMA, apply appropriate surface use COAs, stipulations, and mineral RDFs through ROW grants or other surface management instruments, to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities, in coordination with the mineral estate owner/lessee.	No changes made.	Proposed change under Alternative 3.

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RENEWABLE ENERGY (WIND AND SOLAR) (RE)	RENEWABLE ENERGY (WIND AND SOLAR) (RE)	—
Management Decisions:	Management Decisions:	—
Industrial Solar, Wind, Nuclear, and Hydropower Development	Industrial Solar, Wind, Nuclear, and Hydropower Development	—
MD RE 1: PHMA: Designate and manage PHMA as exclusion areas for utility scale (20 MW) wind and solar testing and development, nuclear and hydropower energy development. IHMA: Designate and manage IHMA as avoidance areas for wind and solar testing and development, nuclear and hydropower development. GHMA (Idaho): Designate and manage GHMA as open for wind and solar testing and development and nuclear and hydropower development subject to RDFs and buffers. GHMA (Montana): Designate and manage GHMA as avoidance for wind and solar testing and development and nuclear and hydropower development.	MD RE 1: PHMA: Designate and manage PHMA as exclusion areas for utility scale (20 MW) wind and solar testing and development, nuclear and hydropower energy development. IHMA: Designate and manage IHMA as avoidance areas for wind and solar testing and development, nuclear and hydropower development. GHMA: Designate and manage GHMA as open for wind and solar testing and development and nuclear and hydropower development.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
LANDS AND REALTY (LR)	LANDS AND REALTY (LR)	—
Objectives:	Objectives:	—
Objectives LR 1: Effects of infrastructure projects, including siting, will be minimized using the best available science, updated as monitoring information on current infrastructure projects becomes available.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions:	Management Decisions:	—
Utility Corridors and Communication Sites	Utility Corridors and Communication Sites	—
MD LR 1: Existing designated corridors, including Section 368 Corridors, will remain Open in all habitat management areas (subject to the ongoing settlement agreement). Also see MD LR 10 and MD SSS 31	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Land Use Authorizations	Land Use Authorizations	—
MD LR 2: PHMA: Designate and manage PHMA as ROW avoidance areas, consistent with MD SSS 29 and subject to RDFs and buffers (Appendices B and C). IHMA: Designate and manage IHMA as ROW avoidance areas, consistent with MD SSS 30 and subject to RDFs and buffers. GHMA (Idaho and Montana): Designate and manage GHMA as open with proposals subject to RDFs and buffers.	MD LR 2: PHMA: Designate and manage PHMA as ROW avoidance areas, consistent with MD SSS 29 and subject to RDFs and buffers (Appendices B and C). IHMA: Designate and manage IHMA as ROW avoidance areas, consistent with MD SSS 30 and subject to RDFs and buffers. GHMA: Designate and manage GHMA as open with proposals subject to best management practices as described in Appendix C.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD LR 3: PHMA: Development of commercial service airports and facilities (as defined by FAA 2014 – publically owned airports that have at least 2,500 passenger boardings each calendar year and receive scheduled passenger service) will not be allowed within PHMA. IHMA and GHMA are Avoidance and Open respectively for these types of ROW applications as described in MD LR 2.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

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MD LR 4: PHMA: Development of new or expansion of existing landfills will not be allowed within PHMA. IHMA and GHMA are Avoidance and Open respectively for these types of ROW applications as described in MD LR 2.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD LR 5: Consistent with MD LR 3, MD LR 4, and MD RE 1, Rights-of-way for development of new or amended ROWs and land use authorizations (including permits and leases) in PHMA will only be considered when consistent with the Anthropogenic Disturbance Screening Criteria (MD SSS 29); Rights-of-way for development of new or amended ROWs and land use authorizations (including permits and leases) in IHMA can be considered consistent with the IHMA Anthropogenic Disturbance Development Criteria (MD SSS 30). GHMA: New ROW and land use authorizations can be considered.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD LR 6: In PHMA, if a higher voltage transmission line is required adjacent to an existing line (i.e. the project is an incremental upgrade/capacity increase of existing development (i.e. power line capacity upgrade): - the existing transmission line must be removed and area rehabilitated within a specified amount of time after the new line is installed and energized; and - the new line must be constructed in the same alignment as the existing line unless an alternate route will benefit GRSG or GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD LR 7: Process unauthorized use. If the unauthorized use is subsequently authorized, it will be authorized consistent with direction from this plan including RDFs and buffers. If the use is not subsequently authorized the site will be reclaimed by removing these unauthorized (trespass) features and rehabilitating the habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD LR 8: Land use authorizations that are temporary (less than 3 years) in nature and are not otherwise excluded or restricted will be subject to seasonal or timing restrictions (Appendix C) and mitigation requirements regarding habitat loss as needed.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

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MD LR 9: New ROW applications for water facilities (ditches, canals, pipelines), or amendments to existing water facilities which include additional structures to improve fish passage or benefits to fisheries (new diversions, fish screens) will be allowed on a case-by-case basis subject to RDFs to reduce impacts on GRSG habitat and mitigation requirements regarding GRSG habitat loss as needed.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD LR 10: When a ROW grant expires and is not requested to be renewed, is relinquished, or terminated, the lease holder will be required to reclaim the site by removing overhead lines and other infrastructure and to eliminate avian predator nesting opportunities provided by anthropogenic development on public lands associated with the now void ROW grant (e.g., remove power line and communication facilities no longer in service).	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD LR 11: As opportunities and priorities indicate work with existing ROW holders to retrofit existing towers and structures consistent with RDFs described in Appendix C .	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD LR 12: PHMA and IHMA are designated as avoidance areas for high voltage transmission line and large pipeline ROWs, except for Gateway West and Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Projects. All authorizations in these areas, other than the following identified projects, must comply with the conservation measures outlined in this proposed plan, including the RDFs and avoidance criteria presented in MD SSS 29 and MD SSS 30 of this document. The BLM is currently processing an application for Gateway West and Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Projects and the NEPA review for this project is well underway. Conservation measures for GRSG are being analyzed through the project's NEPA review process, which should achieve a net conservation benefit for the GRSG.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD LR 13: Consider the likelihood of development of not-yet-constructed surface disturbing activities – as defined in Table 2 of the Monitoring Framework (Appendix D) – under valid existing rights.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

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Land Tenure	Land Tenure	—
MD LR 14: Lands classified as PHMA, IHMA, and GHMA for GRSG will be retained in federal management unless: (1) the agency can demonstrate that disposal of the lands, including land exchanges, will provide a net conservation gain to the GRSG or (2) the agency can demonstrate that the disposal, including land exchanges, of the lands will have no direct or indirect adverse impact on conservation of the GRSG. Land tenure adjustments will be subject to the following disposal, exchange, and acquisition criteria, which include retaining lands with GRSG habitat. Retention of areas with GRSG will reduce the likelihood of habitat conversion to agriculture, urbanization, or other uses that will remove sagebrush habitat and potentially impact sensitive plants. Criteria: a. Acquire habitat within PHMA and IHMA, when possible (i.e. willing landowner), and retain ownership of habitat within all Areas, except if disposal will allow for additional or more contiguous federal ownership patterns. b. Lands within PHMA, IHMA and GHMA will be retained unless disposal of those lands will increase the extent or provide for connectivity of PHMA, IHMA or GHMA. c. Evaluate potential land exchanges containing historically low-quality GRSG habitat that may be too costly to restore in exchange for lands of higher quality habitat, lands that connect seasonal GRSG habitats or lands providing for threatened and endangered species. These potential exchanges should lead to an increase in the extent or continuity of or provide for improved connectivity of PHMA. Higher priority will be given to exchanges for those in-tact areas of sagebrush that will contribute to the expansion of sagebrush areas within PHMA currently in public ownership. Lower priority will be given to other lands that will promote enhancement in the PHMA and IHMA (i.e., areas with fragmented or less in-tact sagebrush). d. Identify lands for acquisition that increase the extent of or provide for connectivity of PHMA.	MD LR 14: Lands classified as PHMA, IHMA, and GHMA for GRSG will be retained in federal management unless: (1) the agency can demonstrate that disposal of the lands, including land exchanges, will provide no net loss to the GRSG or (2) the agency can demonstrate that the disposal, including land exchanges, of the lands will have no direct or indirect adverse impact on conservation of the GRSG. Land tenure adjustments will be subject to the following disposal, exchange, and acquisition criteria, which include retaining lands with GRSG habitat. Retention of areas with GRSG will reduce the likelihood of habitat conversion to agriculture, urbanization, or other uses that will remove sagebrush habitat and potentially impact sensitive plants. Criteria: a. Retain lands within PHMA, IHMA and GHMA, unless disposal of those lands will increase the extent or provide for connectivity of PHMA, IHMA or GHMA. b. Evaluate potential land exchanges containing historically low-quality GRSG habitat that may be too costly to restore in exchange for lands of higher quality habitat, lands that connect seasonal GRSG habitats or lands providing for threatened and endangered species. These potential exchanges should lead to an increase in the extent or continuity of or provide for improved connectivity of PHMA. Higher priority will be given to exchanges for those in-tact areas of sagebrush that will contribute to the expansion of sagebrush areas within PHMA currently in public ownership. Lower priority will be given to other lands that will promote enhancement in the IHMA and GHMA (i.e., areas with fragmented or less in-tact sagebrush). c. Lands for acquisition increase the extent of or provide for connectivity of PHMA.	No change proposed.
Withdrawals	—	—
See MD SS 10 regarding Sagebrush Focal Areas (SFA).	—	Potential change under Alternative 3.

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RECREATION AND VISITOR SERVICES (REC)	RECREATION AND VISITOR SERVICES (REC)	—
Management Decisions:	Management Decisions:	—
REC-1: Manage existing recreation uses and sites to minimize adverse effects on GRSG or their habitat through incorporation of RDFs, buffers and seasonal restrictions.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
REC-2: In PHMA and IHMA, do not construct new recreation facilities (e.g., campgrounds, trails, trailheads, staging areas) unless the development will have a net conservation gain to GRSG habitat (such as concentrating recreation, diverting use away from critical areas, etc.), or unless the development is required for visitor health and safety or resource protection.	REC-2: In PHMA and IHMA, do not construct new recreation facilities (campgrounds, parking lots, trailheads, and staging areas) larger than 0.25 acres unless subject to appropriate buffers and RDFs and appropriate mitigation. Locate and design new facilities to avoid or minimize impacts on GRSG habitat. New trails in PHMA and IHMA should be designed to avoid or minimize impacts on GRSG habitat. New non-motorized trails would not be subject to buffers but may be subject to timing restrictions to avoid impacts on GRSG during the lekking/nesting season. Motorized trails would also be subject to buffers and seasonal timing restrictions.	No change proposed.
TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION (TMM)	TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION (TMM)	—
Management Decisions:	Management Decisions:	—
MD TTM 1: Limit off-highway vehicle travel within Idaho BLM Field Offices to existing roads, primitive roads, and trails in areas where travel management planning has not been completed or is in progress. This excludes areas previously designated as open through a land use plan decision or currently under review for designation as open, currently being analyzed in ongoing RMP revision efforts in the Four Rivers, Jarbidge and Upper Snake Field Offices.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD TTM 2: In PHMA, IHMA, and GHMA, temporary closures will be considered in accordance with 43 CFR subpart 8364 (Closures and Restrictions); 43 CFR subpart 8351 (Designated National Area); 43 CFR subpart 6302 (Use of Wilderness Areas, Prohibited Acts, and Penalties); 43 CFR subpart 8341 (Conditions of Use) and other applicable law and policy.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD TTM 3: Develop Travel Management Plans for each Field Office as described in the BLM Travel Management Handbook 8342.1 and according to the travel management planning guidelines (Appendix L of FEIS).	No changes made.	No change proposed.

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MD TTM 4: During subsequent travel management planning design and designate a travel system to minimize adverse effects on GRSG. Locate areas and trails to minimize disturbance of GRSG and/or to have a neutral or positive effect on GRSG habitat and populations. Give special attention to protect endangered or threatened species and their habitats. Allow for route upgrade, closure of existing routes, timing restrictions, seasonal closures, and creation of new routes to help protect habitat and meet user group needs, thereby reducing the potential for pioneering unauthorized routes. The emphasis of the comprehensive travel and transportation planning within PHMA will be placed on having a neutral or positive effect on GRSG habitat. Individual route designations will occur during subsequent travel management planning efforts.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD TTM 5: Conduct road construction, upgrades, and maintenance activities to avoid disturbance during the lekking season – see Appendix C .	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MITIGATION (IDAHO AND MONTANA)	MITIGATION (MIT)	—
(Also see Appendix F and J)	See 2.12 Mitigation section below	—
Management Decisions:	Management Decisions:	—
MD MIT 1: BLM will establish an inter-agency State GRSG Conservation Team at the state level to help guide conservation of GRSG through compensatory mitigation, within 90 days of the issuance of the Record of Decision.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD MIT 2: The BLM, in coordination with the GRSG Conservation Team will develop a Mitigation Strategy within one year of the issuance of the Record of Decision. In Idaho this strategy will be consistent with the Idaho Mitigation Framework (Appendix F).	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD MIT 3: In all GRSG habitat, in undertaking BLM management actions, and, consistent with valid existing rights and applicable law, in authorizing third-party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation (Appendix E, Table E-1), the BLM will require and ensure mitigation that provides a net conservation gain to the species including accounting for any uncertainty associated with the effectiveness of such mitigation.	MD MIT 3: In PHMA, IHMA, and GHMA, in undertaking BLM management actions, and, consistent with valid existing rights and applicable law, in authorizing third-party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation (Appendix E, Table E-1), the BLM will Achieve the planning-level GRSG management goals and objectives through implementation of mitigation and management actions. Under this Proposed Plan Amendment, the BLM's GRSG management would be consistent with the GRSG goals and objectives, and in conformance with BLM Manual 6840 – Special Status Species Management, undertake planning decisions, actions, and authorizations to “minimize or eliminate threats affecting the status of GRSG or to improve the condition of GRSG habitat” across the planning area. Further the BLM will require and ensure mitigation that provides no net loss to the species including accounting for any uncertainty associated with the effectiveness of such mitigation. This will be achieved by ensuring GRSG habitat impacts are addressed by implementing mitigating sections consistent with the State of Idaho and the Proposed Plan Amendment.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD MIT 4: Mitigate anthropogenic development (Appendix E, Table E-1) impacts on GRSG habitat through application of appropriate mitigation in accordance with the Mitigation Framework (Appendix F and L).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5 and 6.
MD MIT 5: Consistent with regulations for minerals activities, require a full reclamation bond specific to the site when surface disturbing activities are proposed. Ensure reclamation bonds are sufficient to cover costs to fully rehabilitate lost GRSG habitat. Base the reclamation costs on the assumption that contractors for the BLM will perform the work. Areas are considered fully rehabilitated when they meet the conditions described in Table 2-2.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
COORDINATION (CC)	COORDINATION (CC)	—
Management Decisions:	Management Decisions:	—
MD CC 1: Collaborate, coordinate and utilize cooperative planning efforts to implement and monitor activities to achieve desired conditions and to maximize the utilization of available funding opportunities. Coordination efforts can include: adjacent landowners, federal and state agencies, local governments, tribes, communities, other agencies, resource advisory groups, public lands permit holders and non- governmental organizations.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD CC 2: Develop a cooperative MOU between the BLM, Forest Service and State of Idaho to establish the State of Idaho as a cooperating agency during implementation of the final decision. The MOU will identify responsibilities, role and interaction of the BLM, Forest Service and State of Idaho.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD CC 3: The BLM will consider any recommendations from the Governor of Idaho as a result of evaluation completed by the Sage-Grouse Implementation Task Force.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD CC 4: Idaho: The BLM will coordinate with the State of Idaho and the Idaho Sage-Grouse Implementation Task Force regarding proposed management changes, the implementation of conservation measures, mitigation, and site-specific monitoring, related to adaptive management, anthropogenic disturbance and livestock grazing.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD CC 6: Upon completion of the Record of Decision the BLM will develop an initial Implementation Guide for BLM District and Field Offices within a year of issuance of the Record of Decision. This Guide will define and describe consistent application of the allocations, management actions, required design features, and etc. that are contained within the final plan and will be updated and expanded as needed to respond to issues and concerns.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD CC 7: At the state level, BLM will coordinate with IDFG, USFWS, and other conservation partners in collaborative efforts with adjacent states (Oregon, Nevada, Utah, Montana, Wyoming) in GRSG MZs IV and II to evaluate GRSG habitat and population status and trends and make appropriate regional recommendations for GRSG conservation at broader scales.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD CC 8: At the state level, BLM will coordinate with the appropriate WAFWA Sage-grouse Technical Committee to develop consistent population and habitat monitoring approaches that facilitate GRSG conservation at the MZ scale.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD CC 9: All prescribed burning will be coordinated with state and local air quality agencies to ensure that local air quality is not significantly impacted by BLM activities.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

Table 2: Habitat Objectives for GRSG, 2015 ARMPA

Attribute	Indicator	Desired Condition	Reference
LEK HABITAT (Seasonal Use Period March 1 – May 15)¹			
Lek Security	Proximity of trees	Trees (i.e., mainly juniper, conifers, and does not include old-growth juniper, pinyon pine and mountain mahogany) absent or uncommon on shrub/grassland ecological sites within 1.86 miles (3 km) of occupied leks.	Baruch-Mordo et al. 2013 ⁷ Stiver et al. 2015 ¹³
	Proximity of sagebrush to leks	Adjacent protective sagebrush cover within 328 ft. (100 m) of an occupied lek	Stiver et al. 2015 ¹³
NESTING/EARLY BROOD REARING^{1,5,10,12,13,14} (Seasonal Use Period May 1 – June 30)¹			
Cover and Food	Seasonal habitat extent (Percent of Seasonal Habitat Meeting Desired Conditions)	>80% of the nesting habitat meets the recommended vegetation characteristics, where appropriate (relative to ecological site potential, etc.).	Connelly et al. 2000 ⁸
	Sagebrush cover ²	15-25%	Connelly et al. 2000 ⁸ Connelly et al. 2003 ⁹ Hagen et al. 2007 ¹¹
	Sagebrush height		Connelly et al. 2000 ⁸
	Arid sites ³ Mesic sites ⁴	12-31 inches (30-80cm) 16-31 inches (40-80cm)	
	Predominant sagebrush shape	Predominantly spreading shape ⁵	Stiver et al. 2015 ¹³
	Perennial grass cover (such as native bunchgrasses) ² Arid sites ³ Mesic sites ⁴	 ≥10% ≥15%	Connelly et al. 2000 ⁸ Stiver et al. 2015 ¹³
	Perennial grass (and forb) height (includes residual grasses)	≥ 7 inches	Connelly et al. 2000 ⁸ Connelly et al. 2003 ⁹ Hagen et al. 2007 ¹¹ Stiver et al. 2015 ¹³
	Perennial forb cover ² Arid sites ³ Mesic sites ⁴	 ≥5% ≥10%	Connelly et al. 2000 ⁸
	Perennial forb availability	Preferred forbs are common with several species present ⁶	Stiver et al. 2015 ¹³

Attribute	Indicator	Desired Condition	Reference
LATE BROOD-REARING/SUMMER^{1, 15} (July-October)¹ Late brood-rearing areas, such as riparian, meadows, springs, higher elevation mesic uplands, etc. may occur within other mapped seasonal habitat areas. Apply late brood rearing/summer habitat desired conditions locally as appropriate.			
Cover and Food	Seasonal habitat extent (Percent of Seasonal Habitat Meeting Desired Condition)	>40% of the summer/brood habitat meets recommended brood habitat characteristics where appropriate (relative to ecological site potential, etc.)	Connelly et al. 2000 ⁸
	Sagebrush cover ²	Uplands 10-25% Riparian/Meadow: Sagebrush cover within 100 m	Connelly et al. 2000 ⁸
	Sagebrush height	16 to 32 inches (40-80cm)	Connelly et al. 2000 ⁸
	Perennial grass and forb cover ²	>15%	—
	Upland and riparian perennial forb availability ²	Preferred forbs are common with appropriate numbers of species present ⁶	Stiver et al. 2015 ¹³
	Riparian and/or meadow habitat condition	Proper Functioning Condition	Stiver et al. 2015 ¹³
WINTER¹ November-March¹ (Apply to areas of known or likely winter-use)			
Cover and Food	Seasonal habitat extent (Percent of Seasonal Habitat Meeting Desired Condition)	>80% of the wintering habitat meets winter habitat characteristics where appropriate (relative to ecological site, etc.).	Connelly et al. 2000 ⁸
	Sagebrush cover and height above snow ³	Sagebrush is at least 10 inches (25 cm) above snow and ≥10% cover ¹⁶	Connelly et al. 2000 ⁸ Stiver et al. 2015 ¹³

Notes and references:

¹ Seasonal dates can be adjusted by local unit according to geographic region.

² Since plant species and/or life forms may overlap, total vegetative cover, inclusive of shrubs, forbs and grasses may exceed 100%.

³ Arid corresponds to the 10 – 12 inch precipitation zone; *Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis* is a common big sagebrush sub-species for this type site (Stiver et al. 2015).

⁴ Mesic corresponds to the ≥12 inch precipitation zone; *Artemisia tridentata vaseyana* is a common big sagebrush sub-species for this type site (Stiver et al. 2015).

⁵ Collectively the indicators for sagebrush (cover, height, and shape), perennial grass and perennial forb (cover, height and/or availability) represent the desired condition range for nesting/early brood rearing habitat characteristics, consistent with the breeding habitat suitability matrix identified in Stiver et al. 2015. Sagebrush plants that are more tree or columnar-shaped provide less protective cover near the ground than sagebrush plants with a spreading shape (Stiver et al. 2015). Some sagebrush plants are naturally columnar (e.g., Great Basin big sagebrush), and a natural part of the plant community. However, a predominance of columnar shape arising from animal impacts may warrant management investigation or adjustments at site specific scales.

⁶ Preferred forbs are listed in Stiver et al. 2015. Overall total forb cover may be greater than that of preferred forb cover since not all forb species are listed as preferred.

⁷ Baruch-Mordo, S., J. S. Evans, J. P. Severson, D. E. Naugle, J. D. Maestas, J. M. Kiesecker, M. J. Falkowski, C. A. Hagen, and K. P. Reese. 2013. Saving sage-grouse from trees. *Biological Conservation* 167:233-241.

⁸ Connelly, J. W., M. A. Schroeder, A. R. Sands, and C. E. Braun. 2000. Guidelines to manage sage-grouse populations and their habitats. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 28:967-985.

⁹ Connelly, J. W., K. P. Reese, and M. A. Schroeder. 2003. Monitoring of Greater sage-grouse habitats and populations.

University of Idaho College of Natural Resources Experiment Station Bulletin 80. University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho. ¹⁰

Doherty, K. 2008. Sage-grouse and Energy Development: Integrating Science with Conservation Planning to Reduce Impacts. Ph.D. Dissertation. University of Montana, Missoula, Montana.

¹¹ Hagen, C. A., J. W. Connelly, and M. A. Schroeder. 2007. A meta-analysis of greater sage-grouse *Centrocercus urophasianus* nesting and brood-rearing habitats. *Wildlife Biology* 13 (Supplement 1):42-50.

¹² Holloran, M. J., and S. H. Anderson. 2005. Spatial Distribution of Greater Sage-grouse nests in relatively contiguous sagebrush habitats. *Condor* 107:742-752.

¹³ Stiver, S. J., E. T. Rinkes, D. E. Naugle, P. D. Makela, D. A. Nance, and J. W. Karl. 2015. Sage-Grouse Habitat Assessment Framework: A Multi-scale Habitat Assessment Tool. Bureau of Land Management and Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Technical Reference 6710-1. U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Denver, Colorado.

¹⁴ Connelly, J.W., A. Moser, and D. Kemner. 2013. Greater Sage-Grouse breeding habitats: Landscape-based comparisons. Grouse News 45. Research Reports.

¹⁵ Some late brood habitat occurs at higher elevations outside of mapped nesting habitat and some is embedded within nesting landscapes especially areas such as wet meadows, riparian areas, springs and seeps.

¹⁶ Winter habitat metrics are a guideline but snow depths and habitat availability may vary widely depending on winter severity, topography and elevation.

Table 3: Desired Conditions for GRSG, 2019 ARMPA

Attribute	Indicator	Desired Condition	Reference
LEK HABITAT (Seasonal Use Period March 1 – May 15)¹			
Lek Security	Proximity of trees	Trees (i.e., mainly juniper, conifers, and does not include old-growth juniper, pinyon pine and mountain mahogany) absent or uncommon on shrub/grassland ecological sites within 1.86 miles (3 km) of occupied leks.	Baruch-Mordo et al. 2013 ⁷ Stiver et al. 2015 ¹³
	Proximity of sagebrush to leks	Adjacent protective sagebrush cover within 328 ft. (100 m) of an occupied lek	Stiver et al. 2015 ¹³
NESTING/EARLY BROOD REARING^{1,5,10,12,13,14} (Seasonal Use Period May 1 – June 30)¹			
Cover and Food	Seasonal habitat extent (Percent of Seasonal Habitat Meeting Desired Conditions)	>80% of the nesting habitat meets the recommended vegetation characteristics, where appropriate (relative to ecological site potential, etc.).	Connelly et al. 2000 ⁸
	Sagebrush cover ²	15-25%	Connelly et al. 2000 ⁸ Connelly et al. 2003 ⁹ Hagen et al. 2007 ¹¹
	Sagebrush height		Connelly et al. 2000 ⁸
	Arid sites ³ Mesic sites ⁴	12-31 inches (30-80cm) 16-31 inches (40-80cm)	
	Predominant sagebrush shape	Predominantly spreading shape ⁵	Stiver et al. 2015 ¹³
	Perennial grass cover (such as native bunchgrasses) ² Arid sites ³ Mesic sites ⁴	 ≥10% ≥15%	Connelly et al. 2000 ⁸ Stiver et al. 2015 ¹³
	Perennial grass (and forb) height (includes residual grasses)	Adequate Nesting Cover	Connelly et al. 2000 ⁸ Connelly et al. 2003 ⁹ Hagen et al. 2007 ¹¹ Stiver et al. 2015 ¹³ Hausleitner 2005; Holloran et al. 2005; Gibson et al. 2016; Smith et al. 2017; Smith et al. 2018
	Perennial forb cover ² Arid sites ³ Mesic sites ⁴	 ≥5% ≥10%	Connelly et al. 2000 ⁸
	Perennial forb availability	Preferred forbs are common with several species present ⁶	Stiver et al. 2015 ¹³

Attribute	Indicator	Desired Condition	Reference
LATE BROOD-REARING/SUMMER^{1, 15} (July-October)¹ Late brood-rearing areas, such as riparian, meadows, springs, higher elevation mesic uplands, etc. may occur within other mapped seasonal habitat areas. Apply late brood rearing/summer habitat desired conditions locally as appropriate.			
Cover and Food	Seasonal habitat extent (Percent of Seasonal Habitat Meeting Desired Condition)	>40% of the summer/brood habitat meets recommended brood habitat characteristics where appropriate (relative to ecological site potential, etc.)	Connelly et al. 2000 ⁸
	Sagebrush cover ²	Uplands 10-25% Riparian/Meadow: Sagebrush cover within 100 m	Connelly et al. 2000 ⁸
	Sagebrush height	16 to 32 inches (40-80cm)	Connelly et al. 2000 ⁸
	Perennial grass and forb cover ²	>15%	
	Upland and riparian perennial forb availability ²	Preferred forbs are common with appropriate numbers of species present ⁶	Stiver et al. 2015 ¹³
	Riparian and/or meadow habitat condition	Proper Functioning Condition	Stiver et al. 2015 ¹³
WINTER¹ November-March¹ (Apply to areas of known or likely winter-use)			
Cover and Food	Seasonal habitat extent (Percent of Seasonal Habitat Meeting Desired Condition)	>80% of the wintering habitat meets winter habitat characteristics where appropriate (relative to ecological site, etc.).	Connelly et al. 2000 ⁸
	Sagebrush cover and height above snow ³	Sagebrush is at least 10 inches (25 cm) above snow and ≥10% cover ¹⁶	Connelly et al. 2000 ⁸ Stiver et al. 2015 ¹³

Notes and references:

¹ Seasonal dates can be adjusted by local unit according to geographic region.

² Since plant species and/or life forms may overlap, total vegetative cover, inclusive of shrubs, forbs and grasses may exceed 100%.

³ Arid corresponds to the 10 – 12 inch precipitation zone; *Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis* is a common big sagebrush sub-species for this type site (Stiver et al. 2015).

⁴ Mesic corresponds to the ≥12 inch precipitation zone; *Artemisia tridentata vaseyana* is a common big sagebrush sub-species for this type site (Stiver et al. 2015).

⁵ Collectively the indicators for sagebrush (cover, height, and shape), perennial grass and perennial forb (cover, height and/or availability) represent the desired condition range for nesting/early brood rearing habitat characteristics, consistent with the breeding habitat suitability matrix identified in Stiver et al. 2015. Sagebrush plants that are more tree or columnar-shaped provide less protective cover near the ground than sagebrush plants with a spreading shape (Stiver et al. 2015). Some sagebrush plants are naturally columnar (e.g., Great Basin big sagebrush), and a natural part of the plant community. However, a predominance of columnar shape arising from animal impacts may warrant management investigation or adjustments at site specific scales.

⁶ Preferred forbs are listed in Stiver et al. 2015. Overall total forb cover may be greater than that of preferred forb cover since not all forb species are listed as preferred.

⁷ Baruch-Mordo, S., J. S. Evans, J. P. Severson, D. E. Naugle, J. D. Maestas, J. M. Kiesecker, M. J. Falkowski, C. A. Hagen, and K. P. Reese. 2013. Saving sage-grouse from trees. *Biological Conservation* 167:233-241.

⁸ Connelly, J. W., M. A. Schroeder, A. R. Sands, and C. E. Braun. 2000. Guidelines to manage sage-grouse populations and their habitats. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 28:967-985.

⁹ Connelly, J. W., K. P. Reese, and M. A. Schroeder. 2003. Monitoring of Greater sage-grouse habitats and populations. University of Idaho College of Natural Resources Experiment Station Bulletin 80. University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho.

¹⁰ Doherty, K. 2008. Sage-grouse and Energy Development: Integrating Science with Conservation Planning to Reduce Impacts. Ph.D. Dissertation. University of Montana, Missoula, Montana.

¹¹ Hagen, C. A., J. W. Connelly, and M. A. Schroeder. 2007. A meta-analysis of greater sage-grouse *Centrocercus urophasianus* nesting and brood-rearing habitats. *Wildlife Biology* 13 (Supplement 1):42-50.

¹² Holloran, M. J., and S. H. Anderson. 2005. Spatial Distribution of Greater Sage-grouse nests in relatively contiguous sagebrush habitats. *Condor* 107:742-752.

¹³ Stiver, S. J., E. T. Rinkes, D. E. Naugle, P. D. Makela, D. A. Nance, and J. W. Karl. 2015. Sage-Grouse Habitat Assessment Framework: A Multi-scale Habitat Assessment Tool. Bureau of Land Management and Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Technical Reference 6710-1. U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Denver, Colorado.

¹⁴ Connelly, J.W., A. Moser, and D. Kemner. 2013. Greater Sage-Grouse breeding habitats: Landscape-based comparisons. Grouse News 45. Research Reports.

¹⁵ Some late brood habitat occurs at higher elevations outside of mapped nesting habitat and some is embedded within nesting landscapes especially areas such as wet meadows, riparian areas, springs and seeps.

¹⁶ Winter habitat metrics are a guideline but snow depths and habitat availability may vary widely depending on winter severity, topography and elevation.

Table 4:* Estimated Acres of Treatment Needed within a 10-Year Period to Achieve Vegetation Objectives on BLM-Administered Lands¹

Population Area	Mechanical ²	Prescribed Fire (MD FIRE 31) ³	Grass Restoration (MD VEG 2) ⁴
Bear Lake Plateau	1,000	0	0
East Idaho Uplands	6,000	9,000	1,000
S Central Idaho/N Snake River and Mountain Valleys	18,000	11,000	162,000
Weiser	0	0	13,000
SW Idaho	52,000	10,000	444,000

Notes:

¹ These are estimates of treatments required to achieve and/or maintain desired habitat conditions over a period of ten years. There are many dynamic and highly variable disturbances that may happen over that period of time that can have a significant effect on the amount, type, and timing of treatment needed. Those disturbances are factored into the ten-year simulation using stochastic, not predictive, techniques. Probabilities of events such as large wildfires are used in the model to make the simulation as realistic as possible, given empirical data about such events in the past, but the results of the simulation cannot be used to predict the future occurrence of such events, including their timing, size, or location, which are essentially random.

² Removal of conifers that have invaded sagebrush including phase one juniper that is 10 percent or less and reducing sagebrush cover in areas over 30 percent canopy cover

³ Acres are those that are greater than 30 percent sagebrush canopy cover and/or invaded by 10 percent or greater conifer.

⁴ Acres presently dominated by annual grasses that can be improved by herbicide application and seeding of perennial vegetation.

*Table 2-3 (2015 GRSG Approved RMP Amendment)

Note there was no change to Table 2-3 in the 2019 GRSG Approved RMP Amendment.

2.2.2 Relevant Appendices

The following table shows which appendices from the 2015 and 2019 plans have management direction that may change through this RMP amendment. If 2019 is not listed in the year, then no change was made to the appendix between the 2015 and 2019 plans. The appendices can be found on [the Idaho GRSG ePlanning website](#).

ARMPA Appendix Name	Year	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
A: Approved RMP Amendment Maps	2015, 2019	Yes
B: Buffers	2015, 2019	Yes
C: Required Design Features	2015, 2019	No
D: Monitoring Framework	2015	Yes
E: Anthropogenic Disturbance and Adaptive Management	2015, 2019	Yes
F: Mitigation	2015, 2019	Yes
G: Fluid Mineral Lease Stipulations, Waivers, Modifications, and Exceptions	2015	Yes
H: Fire and Invasives Assessment Tool (FIAT)	2015	No
I: US Fish and Wildlife Service Concurrence Letter	2015	No
J: Montana Action Screen and Mitigation Process	2015	Yes
K: Technical and Policy Teams	2019	No

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Appendix 2.3
Billings RMP Revision

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2.3 BILLINGS RMP REVISION

This appendix presents the GRSG approved RMP amendment language from the 2015 record of decision for the Billings RMP. The Billings RMP was not amended in 2019. The table below notes which goals, objectives, appendices, and management decisions/actions have a potential to change as a result of the current planning effort and if so, under which alternatives changes are being considered. Note that any references to tables and appendices are to those applicable 2015 appendices that are listed in **Section 2.3.2** of this appendix.

2.3.1 Existing GRSG RMP Management – Billings RMP Revision

Table 1: Summary of Goals, Objectives, and Management Actions in Billings 2015 RMP Revision

Billings RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions: Vegetation Communities	
MD Veg/R&S-7: In all PHMA the desired condition is to maintain all lands ecologically capable of producing sagebrush (but no less than 70%) with a minimum of 15% sagebrush cover or as consistent with specific ecological site conditions. The attributes necessary to sustain these habitats are described in Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health (BLM Tech Ref 1734-6).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD WLH & SSS-80: In all PHMA the desired condition is to maintain all lands ecologically capable of producing sagebrush (but no less than 70%) with a minimum of 15% sagebrush cover or as consistent with specific ecological site conditions. The attributes necessary to sustain these habitats are described in Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health (BLM Tech Ref 1734-6).	
MD Veg/F&V-8: Remove conifers encroaching into sagebrush habitats, in a manner that considers tribal cultural values. Prioritize treatments closest to occupied sage-grouse habitats and near occupied leks, and where juniper encroachment is phase 1 or phase 2. Use of site-specific analysis and principles like those included in the FIAT report (Chambers et. al., 2014) and other ongoing modeling efforts to address conifer encroachment will help refine the location for specific priority areas to be treated.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD Veg/R&S-6: Within Greater Sage-Grouse PHMA, only treatments that conserve, enhance, or restore Greater Sage-Grouse habitat will be allowed. Treatment methods, including prescribed burning and mechanical treatments will be used to eliminate conifer encroachment and stimulate vegetative re-growth in grassland/shrub land habitats; and to reduce fuels, thin under-stories, recycle nutrients, and create small openings in forested vegetation types.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Resources	
Goal WLH & SSS 10: To maintain or improve Greater Sage-Grouse populations by maintaining Greater Sage-Grouse habitat in good condition.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Goal WLH & SSS 12: BLM will maintain habitat for viable Greater Sage-Grouse populations to promote movement and genetic diversity. Maintain, restore or enhance Greater Sage-Grouse habitat and connectivity between sagebrush habitats, with emphasis on those habitats occupied by Greater Sage-Grouse.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Billings RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Goal WLH & SSS 8: Provide for the long-term conservation, enhancement, and restoration of the sagebrush steppe/mixed-grass prairie complex in a manner that supports sustainable Greater Sage-Grouse populations and a healthy diversity and abundance of wildlife species.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD WLH & SSS-79: Establish Greater Sage-Grouse PHMA (158,926 acres of BLM-administered lands and 205,254 acres of federal minerals). These PHMA are generally consistent with MTFWP Greater Sage-Grouse core area designations, with the exception of one small area in southern Carbon County near Elk Basin Oil field (Map 2-1).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD WLH & SSS-96: Establish GHMA (176,734 acres of BLM-administered lands and 299,166 acres of federal mineral estate). These areas include a 3 mile buffer around Greater Sage-Grouse leks, outside of the PHMA and RHMA areas (Map 2-1).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Goal WLH & SSS 11: In these areas, BLM will manage habitat so that Greater Sage-Grouse populations can be restored over the long-term. BLM will strive to restore historical Greater Sage-Grouse habitat functionality, or at a minimum, have no net loss of Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, to support Greater Sage-Grouse populations.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD WLH & SSS-88: Establish RHMAs (78,927 acres of BLM-administered lands and 88,642 acres of federal mineral estate). These areas will include one small polygon of core habitat in Carbon County near Elk Basin Oil Field, as well as other areas (Map 2-1).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Objectives: Sagebrush, native grasslands, seasonal or crucial wildlife ranges, special status species habitat, fisheries, cottonwood galleries, and riparian/wetlands will be priority habitats. All wildlife habitats will be managed to meet Rangeland Health Standards (Standards 1 and 5). BLM is responsible for managing habitats, whereas state and federal wildlife management agencies (e.g., MT FWP, USFWS) oversee management of wildlife species. BLM will coordinate with and support the conservation plans of those agencies on BLM administered lands. Priority wildlife species for management are described in Chapter 3. In 2010, the USFWS determined that the Greater Sage-Grouse is a Candidate species and Warranted, but precluded, by other priorities, for listing under the ESA. In 2009, the MT/DAKs BLM delineated three types of Greater Sage-Grouse habitat areas as part of the planning process (Map 2-1): • Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat - PHMA, • Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat - RHMA, and • Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat — GHMA Each area will have varying degrees of management in order to achieve the goals or objectives for each Greater Sage-Grouse habitat area. The Greater Sage-Grouse habitat delineations may be modified as needed as local site conditions change or as new information becomes available. Refer to the Glossary for definitions of the three Greater Sage-Grouse habitat areas, Appendix F for mitigation measures and conservation actions for Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, and Appendix D for monitoring of Greater Sage-Grouse and Sagebrush Habitats.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 81: In undertaking BLM management actions, and consistent with valid and existing rights and applicable law in authorizing third-party actions, the BLM will apply the lek buffer-distances identified in the USGS Report Conservation Buffer Distance Estimates for Greater Sage-Grouse – A Review (Open File Report 2014-1239) in accordance with Appendix B.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Billings RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
[Original language updated through plan maintenance action in 2018] The habitat objectives for GRSG (Table 2.3-2) is a list of indicators, characteristics, and values that describe GRSG seasonal habitat use areas. The BLM used indicator values derived from a synthesis of local and regional GRSG habitat research and data to describe the typical vegetation communities that sage-grouse select. While the habitat objectives are not attainable on every site or every acre within designated GRSG habitat management areas, the values reflect a range of habitat conditions that generally lead to greater survival of individuals within a population. When permitting land use activities, BLM should consider the ecological site potential within designated habitat management areas to validate the habitat conditions achievable for a specific site. The seasonal habitat descriptions in Table 2.3-2 [varies by plan] vary across the range of sage-grouse, within a subregion, and between sites. They are not land health standards but are quantitative measures that inform the Special Status Species Habitat Land Health Standard for sage-grouse. These measurable values reflect ecological potential, and may be adjusted based on local factors influencing sage-grouse habitat selection. Local data or recent science may indicate that sage-grouse select for vegetation structure and composition in seasonal habitats not characterized by the values in the habitat objectives table. In these cases, it may be appropriate to adjust the values. Habitat objectives should be evaluated in the context of annual variability in ecological conditions and should not be used singly to determine habitat suitability for sage-grouse. They may be used to demonstrate trends over time, during plan evaluations for effectiveness of sage-grouse conservation, or when identify limiting habitat characteristics for a given area. The indicators, characteristics, values and desired seasonal habitat conditions in the GRSG Plan Habitat Objectives Table are meant to inform the wildlife habitat component of the Land Health Standards evaluation process (LHS, 43 CFR 4180.2), but do not replace rangeland health assessments. Results from the LHS evaluation should be used to support BLM in land use authorization processes and during development of objectives for management actions such as vegetation treatments. BLM land use authorizations will contain terms and conditions regarding the actions needed to achieve or make progress toward achieving habitat objectives and land health standards. The Habitat Objectives Tables are to be used: • To assess habitat suitability for sage-grouse following the BLM policy on sage-grouse habitat assessments • To evaluate land use plan effectiveness for sage-grouse conservation, and • As a basis to develop measurable project objectives for actions in BLM-designated GRSG Habitat Management areas when considered alongside land health standards, ecological potential and local information. References: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. 2001. Rangeland health standards handbook H-4180-1. https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/uploads/Media_Library_BLM_Policy_h4180-1.pdf	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Billings RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD WLH & SSS-76: Special Status Species: Greater Sage-Grouse – All BLM use authorizations will contain terms and conditions regarding the actions needed to meet or progress toward meeting the habitat objectives. If monitoring data show the habitat objectives have not been met nor progress being made towards meeting them, there will be an evaluation and a determination made as to the cause. If it is determined that the authorized use is a cause, the use will be adjusted by the response specified in the instrument that authorized the use.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD WLH & SSS-75: Special Status Species: Greater Sage-Grouse – In addition to the references identified in the following table, the Conservation Plans developed for each of the Wyoming Local Sage-Grouse Working Groups will be consulted to identify specific habitat objectives appropriate for site-specific conditions. The Conservation Plans, updated in March 2014, are available on the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) website at: https://wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/wildlife-1000817.aspx .	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Disturbance	
MD WLH & SSS-78: Special Status Species – Greater Sage-Grouse – If the 3% anthropogenic disturbance cap is exceeded on lands (regardless of land ownership) or if anthropogenic disturbance and habitat loss associated with conversion to agricultural tillage or fire exceed 5% within a project analysis area in PHMA, then no further discrete anthropogenic disturbances (subject to applicable laws and regulations, such as the 1872 Mining Law, valid existing rights, etc.) will be permitted by BLM within PHMA in a project analysis area until the disturbance has been reduced to less than the cap. • If the BLM determines that the State of Montana has adopted a GRSG Habitat Conservation Program that contains comparable components to those found in the State of Wyoming's Core Area Strategy including an all lands approach for calculating anthropogenic disturbances, a clear methodology for measuring the density of operations, and a fully operational Density Disturbance Calculation Tool, the 3% disturbance cap will be converted to a 5% cap for all sources of habitat alteration within a project analysis area. If the 3% anthropogenic disturbance cap is exceeded on lands (regardless of land ownership) within GRSG PHMA in any given BSU, then no further discrete anthropogenic disturbances (subject to applicable laws and regulations, such as the 1872 hard rock mining law, valid existing rights, etc.) will be permitted by BLM within GRSG PHMA in any given BSU until the disturbance has been reduced to less than the cap. Within existing designated utility corridors, the 3% disturbance cap may be exceeded at the project scale if the site specific NEPA analysis indicates that a net conservation gain to the species will be achieved. This exception is limited to projects which fulfill the use for which the corridors were designated (ex., transmission lines, pipelines) and the designated width of a corridor will not be exceeded as a result of any project co-location. [Management action clarified in 2018 to reflect State of Montana process, under DOI-BLM-MT-2018-0005-CX. RMP Maintenance Action Language: This maintenance action is to clarify that the BLM has determined that the State's all lands approach to analyzing disturbance is operational and effective. Therefore, the BLM will adopt and implement the State's approach as identified in Attachments D (Stipulations for Uses and Activities) and H (definitions) of Montana Executive Order 12-2015.]	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Billings RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Management Direction WLH & SSS-83: Subject to applicable laws and regulations and valid existing rights, if the average density of one energy and mining facility per 640 acres (the density cap) is exceeded on all lands (regardless of land ownership) in the PHMA within a proposed project analysis area, then no further disturbance from energy or mining facilities will be permitted by BLM: (1) until disturbance in the proposed project analysis area has been reduced to maintain the limit under the cap; or (2) unless the energy or mining facility is co-located into an existing disturbed area.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD WLH & SSS-71: In all sage-grouse habitat, in undertaking BLM management actions, and consistent with valid existing rights and applicable law, in authorizing third-party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation, the BLM will require and ensure mitigation that provides a net conservation gain to the species including accounting for any uncertainty associated with the effectiveness of such mitigation. This will be achieved by avoiding, minimizing, and compensating for impacts by applying beneficial mitigation actions. Actions which result in habitat loss and degradation” include those identified as threats which contribute to Greater Sage-Grouse disturbance as identified by the USFWS in its 2010 listing decision (75 FR 13910) and shown in Table 2 in the attached Monitoring Framework (Appendix D).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Decisions: Wildland Fire Ecology and Management	
Action FIRE-8: If prescribed fire is used in GRSG habitat, the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plans will address: *why alternative techniques were not selected as a viable options; *how GRSG goals and objectives will be met by its use; *how the COT report objectives will be addressed and met; and *a risk assessment to address how potential threats to GRSG habitat will be minimized. Prescribed fire as vegetation or fuels treatment shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Prescribed fire can be used to meet specific fuels objectives that will protect GRSG habitat in PHMA (e.g., creation of fuel breaks that will disrupt the fuel continuity across the landscape in stands where annual invasive grasses are a minor component in the understory, burning slash piles from conifer reduction treatments, used as a component with other treatment methods to combat annual grasses and restore native plant communities). Prescribed fire in known winter range shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Any prescribed fire in winter habitat will need to be designed to strategically reduce wildfire risk around and/or in the winter range and designed to protect winter range habitat quality.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Billings RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD FIRE-14: Prescribed fire will be allowed on up to 5 percent of the percent of BLM administered acres within the planning area to achieve measurable landscape level objectives from (1) other resources, including, but not limited to, forestry, wildlife, range, vegetation, and watershed; (2) the reduction of hazardous fuels; and (3) the introduction of fire into fire-adapted ecosystems. Within Greater Sage-Grouse PHMA and RHMAs, only treatments that conserve, enhance, or restore Greater Sage-Grouse habitat will be allowed. Treatment methods, including prescribed burning and mechanical treatments will be used to eliminate conifer encroachment and stimulate vegetative re-growth in grassland/shrub land habitats; and to reduce fuels, thin under-stories, recycle nutrients, and create small openings in forested vegetation types. A fire risk assessment will be completed for implementation of prescribed fire in relation to GRSG goals and objectives. When prescribed fire is used for vegetation treatments, the burn plan will clearly indicate how COT objectives will be addressed and met by use of prescribed fire and why alternative techniques for vegetation treatment were not selected.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Lands and Realty	
MD R/LT-14: Lands classified as priority habitat and general habitat (or habitat classification appropriate for the sub-region) for Greater Sage-Grouse will be retained in federal management unless: 1) the agency can demonstrate that disposal of the lands, including land exchanges, will provide a net conservation gain to the Greater Sage-Grouse or 2) the agency can demonstrate that the disposal of the lands, including land exchanges, will have no direct or indirect adverse impact on conservation of the Greater Sage-Grouse. (Map 2-11)	No change proposed.
MD WLH & SSS-87: Avoidance area [PHMA] for major and minor ROWs. However ROWs will only be allowed in GRSG PHMA where habitat functionality will be maintained. [(Cross-listed in the RMP as R/RLP-15 where it states "PHMA" and also references Maps 2-9 & 2-10)] MD WLH & SSS-95: Avoidance area [RHMA] for major and minor ROWs. However ROWs will only be allowed in GRSG RHMAs where habitat functionality will be maintained. MD WLH & SSS-102: GRSG GHMA will be avoidance areas for major ROWs. GRSG GHMA will be open to minor ROWs. Utilities and similar facilities will be located adjacent to other facilities where practical and only when habitat can be maintained. MD R/RLP-18: GHMA open to minor ROWs. Utilities and similar facilities will be located adjacent to other facilities where practical and only when habitat can be maintained.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Billings RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD WLH & SSS-86: Exclusion area [PHMA] for renewable and solar energy exploration and facility development. MD WLH & SSS-93: GRSG RHMA outside of Elk Basin will be avoidance areas for renewable and solar energy exploration, development and facilities with approved mitigation. MD WLH & SSS-94: The Elk Basin GRSG RHMA will be an exclusion area for renewable and solar energy exploration, development and facilities with approved mitigation. MD WLH & SSS-101: Avoidance area [GHMA] for renewable and solar energy exploration, development and facilities with approved mitigation.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD R/LP-21: Silver Tip Road in Carbon County will be designated as a ROW corridor (1,750 feet on either side of the center line of Silver Tip Road). This corridor will have a total width of 3,500 feet and 6 miles in length on public land, with the exception of the portion of this corridor occurring in the Elk Basin GRSG RHMA which will be 1,320 feet on either side of the center line of Silver Tip Road (total width of 2,640 feet) (Map 2-8).	No change proposed.
MD WLH & SSS-103: Consider the potential for the development of not-yet-constructed valid existing rights of surface disturbing activities as defined in Table 2 of the Monitoring Framework (Appendix D) prior to authorizing new projects in PHMA.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Fluid Mineral Resources	
Fluids 18: Where the federal government owns the surface and the mineral estate is in non-federal ownership in PHMA and GHMA, apply appropriate surface use COAs, stipulations, and mineral RDFs through ROW grants or other surface management instruments, to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities, in coordination with the mineral estate owner/lessee.	No change proposed.
Fluids 17: Where the federal government owns the mineral estate in PHMA and GHMA, and the surface estate is in non-federal ownership, apply the same stipulations, COAs, and/or conservation measures and RDFs applied if the mineral estate is developed on BLM-administered lands in that management area, to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities, and in coordination with the landowner.	No change proposed.
All HMA: MD WLH & SSS-92: Geophysical exploration will be allowed on existing roads and trails with surface use prohibited from March 1 to June 15 within 4 miles of a lek (TL).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Billings RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD FLUIDS-15: Priority will be given to leasing and development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, outside of PHMA and GHMA. When analyzing leasing and authorizing development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, in PHMA and GHMA, and subject to applicable stipulations for the conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse, priority will be given to development in non-habitat areas first and then in the least suitable habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse (Map 2-4). The implementation of these priorities will be subject to valid existing rights and any applicable law or regulation, including, but not limited to, 30 U.S.C. 226(p) and 43 C.F.R. 3162.3-1(h). MD FLUIDS-16: Where a proposed fluid mineral development project on an existing lease could adversely affect GRSg populations or habitat, the BLM will work with the lessees, operators, or other project proponents to avoid, reduce and mitigate adverse impacts to the extent compatible with lessees' rights to drill and produce fluid mineral resources. The BLM will work with the lessee, operator, or project proponent in developing an APD for the lease to avoid and minimize impacts on sage-grouse or its habitat and will ensure that the best information about the GRSg and its habitat informs and helps to guide development of such Federal leases.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD WLH & SSS-85: Open to fluid mineral leasing and development (including geophysical exploration). To protect Greater Sage-grouse, a priority species for management, surface occupancy and use for oil and gas exploration and development will be prohibited within Greater Sage-Grouse PHMA (NSO).	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
MD WLH & SSS-98: Surface occupancy and use for oil and gas exploration and development will be prohibited within 0.6 miles of the perimeter of Greater Sage-Grouse leks (NSO). [GHMA]	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD WLH & SSS-77: Surface occupancy and use for oil and gas exploration and development will be prohibited within Greater Sage-Grouse crucial winter range (NSO).	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD WLH & SSS-99: To protect nesting Greater Sage-grouse [GHMA], surface occupancy and use within 2 miles of a lek may be restricted or prohibited. Prior to such activities, a plan to mitigate impacts on nesting Greater Sage-grouse and Greater Sage-grouse nesting habitat will be prepared by the proponent and implemented upon approval by the AO (CSU).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Billings RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD WLH & SSS-82: No waivers or modifications to a fluid mineral lease no-surface-occupancy stipulation will be granted. The AO may grant an exception to a fluid mineral lease no-surface-occupancy stipulation only where the proposed action: i. Will not have direct, indirect, or cumulative effects on GRSG or its habitat; or, ii. Is proposed to be undertaken as an alternative to a similar action occurring on a nearby parcel, and will provide a clear conservation gain to GRSG. Exceptions based on conservation gain (ii) may only be considered in (a) PHMA of mixed ownership where federal minerals underlie less than fifty percent of the total surface, or (b) areas of the public lands where the proposed exception is an alternative to an action occurring on a nearby parcel subject to a valid Federal fluid mineral lease existing as of the date of this RMP revision. Exceptions based on conservation gain must also include measures, such as enforceable institutional controls and buffers, sufficient to allow the BLM to conclude that such benefits will endure for the duration of the proposed action's impacts. Any exceptions to this lease stipulation may be approved by the AO only with the concurrence of the State Director. The AO may not grant an exception unless the applicable state wildlife agency, the USFWS, and the BLM unanimously find that the proposed action satisfies (i) or (ii). Such finding shall initially be made by a team of one field biologist or other GRSG expert from each respective agency. In the event the initial finding is not unanimous, the finding may be elevated to the appropriate BLM State Director, USFWS State Ecological Services Director, and state wildlife agency head for final resolution. In the event their finding is not unanimous, the exception will not be granted. Approved exceptions will be made publicly available at least quarterly.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
RHMA: MD WLH & SSS-89: Surface occupancy and use for oil and gas exploration and development will be prohibited within 0.6 miles of Greater Sage-Grouse leks (NSO).	Potential change under Alternative 3.
RHMA: MD WLH & SSS-90: Surface use for oil and gas exploration and development will be prohibited from March 1 to June 15 in Greater Sage-Grouse nesting habitat within 3 miles of a lek (TL).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
RHMA: MD WLH & SSS-91: Surface occupancy and use for oil and gas exploration and development will be subject to the following special operating constraints that will maintain Greater Sage-Grouse habitat: surface disturbance density and mitigation plan (CSU).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Decisions: Solid Leasable Minerals	
Action MR-1.3: At the time an application for a new coal lease or lease modification is submitted to the BLM, the BLM will determine whether the lease application area is "unsuitable" for all or certain coal mining methods pursuant to 43 CFR, Part 3461.5. PHMA is essential habitat for maintaining GRSG for purposes of the suitability criteria set forth at 43 CFR, Part 3461.5(o)(1).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Billings RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD SL-COAL-8: Within Greater Sage-Grouse PHMA (Map 3-5) and RHMA solid mineral leasing (coal) will only be allowed with the following lease stipulations: • Mining may only occur via subsurface methods • All mine related appurtenant facilities will be placed outside of the PHMA	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Mineral Materials	
MD SALE_MIN-4: The following areas are closed to mineral material disposals (281,597 acres) Greater Sage-Grouse PHMA - closed to new salable minerals sales; existing permits will be renewed with no increase in the permitted boundary. However, these areas remain “open” to free use permits and the expansion of existing active pits, only if the following criteria are met: • the activity is within the BSU and project area disturbance cap; • the activity is subject to the provisions set forth in the mitigation framework (Appendix F); • all applicable required design features are applied; and [if applicable] the activity is permissible under the specific sub-regional screening criteria	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
Management Decisions: Recreation	
MD REC-27: The BLM will issue special recreation use permits as appropriate for commercial, competitive, and special events subject to guidelines in BLM Handbook 2930, resource capabilities, social conflict concerns, professional qualifications, public safety, and public needs. SRPs will only be allowed in priority habitat if they are consistent with the goals and objectives for that habitat or species.	No change proposed.
Management Direction REC-15 In PHMA, do not construct new recreation facilities (e.g., campgrounds, trails, trailheads, and staging areas) unless the development will have a net conservation gain to GRSG habitat (such as concentrating recreation, diverting use away from important areas, etc.), or unless the development is required for visitor health and safety or resource protection.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management	
MD TTM-24: Site specific travel planning within Greater Sage-Grouse PHMA will be completed within a five (5) year period after the ROD is signed where it hasn't already been completed as part of this plan.	No change proposed.
MD TTM-25: In PHMA and GHMA, temporary closures will be considered in accordance with 43 CFR subpart 8364 (Closures and Restrictions); 43 CFR subpart 8351 (Designated National Area); 43 CFR subpart 6320 (Use of Wilderness Areas, Prohibited Acts, and Penalties); 43 CFR subpart 8341 (Conditions of Use).	No change proposed.

Billings RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions: Livestock Grazing	
MD LG-13: The NEPA analysis for renewals and modifications of livestock grazing permits/leases that include lands within PHMA will include specific management thresholds based on GRSG Habitat Objectives Table (Table 2-6) and Land Health Standards (43 CFR, Part 4180.2) and one or more defined responses that will allow the authorizing officer to make adjustments to livestock grazing that have already been subjected to NEPA analysis. MD LG-15: The NEPA analysis for renewals and modifications of livestock grazing permits/leases that include lands within PHMA will include specific management thresholds based on GRSG Habitat Objectives Table (Table 2-6) and Land Health Standards (43 CFR, Part 4180.2) and ecological site potential, and one or more defined responses that will allow the authorizing officer to make adjustments to livestock grazing that have already been subjected to NEPA analysis.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG-12: Site specific Greater Sage-Grouse habitat and management objectives will be developed for BLM land within Greater Sage-Grouse PHMA. These objectives will be incorporated into the respective allotment management plans (AMPs) or livestock grazing permits as appropriate. (Map 2-1)	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG-14: The BLM will prioritize (1) the review of grazing permits/leases, in particular to determine if modification is necessary prior to renewal, and (2) the processing of grazing permits/leases in PHMA. In setting workload priorities, precedence will be given to existing permits/leases in these areas not meeting Land Health Standards, with focus on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows. The BLM may use other criteria for prioritization to respond to urgent natural resource concerns (ex., fire) and legal obligations.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
LG-16: Allotments within SFA, followed by those within PHMA, and focusing on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows, will be prioritized for field checks to help ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the grazing permits. Field checks can include monitoring for actual use, utilization, and use supervision.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Direction LG-1.4: In PHMA, work cooperatively on integrated ranch planning within GRSG habitat so operations with deeded/BLM allotments can be planned as single units.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.
Management Direction LG-1.7: At the time a permittee or lessee voluntarily relinquishes a permit or lease, the BLM will consider whether the public lands where that permitted use was authorized should remain available for livestock grazing or be used for other resource management objectives, such as reserve common allotments or fire breaks. This does not apply to or impact grazing preference transfers, which are addressed in 43 CFR 4110.2-3.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG-1.1: All allotments wholly located in Greater Sage-Grouse PHMA will be considered for retirement, where the base property owner relinquishes their preference.	

Table 2: Billings Habitat Objectives for GRSG

Attribute	Indicator	Desired Condition	Reference
Breeding, Nesting, and Early Brood-Rearing (Seasonal Use Period: March 1 – June 15)			
Lek Security	Proximity of trees	.65-Km ² (.388 miles) avoidance of coniferous habitats	Doherty 2008
	Collision Risks	Fences and other structures that pose a high collision risk are absent or mitigated with visual markers within 1.25 miles of leks active within 5 years.	Connelly et al. 2000 Stiver et al. 2015
	Proximity of sagebrush to leks	Adjacent protective sagebrush cover within 100 m (328 ft.) of an active lek	Stiver et al. 2015
Cover	Sagebrush canopy cover	5-25%	Herman–Brunson 2007 Swanson 2009 Doherty et al. 2010 Hagen et al. 2007 Doherty et al. 2011 Foster et al. 2014 Wright et al. 2005
	Sagebrush height	6-31 inches (15-50cm)	Schroeder et al. 1999 Swanson 2009 Holloran et al. 2005 Doherty et al. 2011 Lane 2005
	Predominant sagebrush shape	Predominately spreading shape	Stiver et al. 2015
	Perennial grass cover (including bunchgrasses/important native grasses)	≥10%	Doherty et al. 2011 Holloran et al. 2005 Doherty et al. 2010 Hagen et al. 2007 Lane 2005
	Perennial grass and forb height (including residual grasses)	Adequate nest cover based on ecological site potential and seasonal precipitation; 4.4-11.3 inches (11.4-29 cm)	Doherty et al. 2014
	Perennial forb canopy cover	≥3%	Doherty et al. 2011 Holloran, et al. 2005 Doherty et al. 2010 Hagen et al. 2007

Attribute	Indicator	Desired Condition	Reference
Brood-Rearing/Summer I (Seasonal Use Period: June 16 – October 31)			
Cover	Sagebrush canopy cover	5-25%	Herman–Brunson 2007 Swanson 2009 Doherty et al. 2010 Doherty et al. 2011 Foster et al. 2014 Lane 2005
	Sagebrush height	6-31 inches (15-50cm)	Schroeder et al. 1999 Holloran et al. 2005 Doherty et al. 2011 Lane 2005
	Perennial grass and forb canopy cover	≥10%	Doherty et al. 2011 Holloran et al. 2010 Hagen et al. 2007
	Riparian areas/mesic meadows	Proper Functioning Condition	BLM 1997c Prichard et al. 1999 Prichard 1998
	Upland and riparian perennial forb availability	Preferred forbs are common with several preferred species present.	Stiver et al. 2015 Doherty et al. 2011
Winter I (Seasonal Use Period: November 1 – February 28)			
Cover and Food	Sagebrush canopy cover	≥10%	Schroeder et al. 1999 Swanson 2009 Foster et al. 2014
	Sagebrush height	≥25cm	Connelly et al. 2000

2.3.2 Relevant Appendices

The following table shows which appendices from the 2015 plan have management direction that may change through this RMP amendment. The appendices can be found on [the Billings RMP ePlanning website](#).

ARMPA Appendix Name	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
A: Approved RMP Maps	Yes
B: Greater Sage-Grouse: Applying Lek Buffers	No
C: Greater Sage-Grouse Required Design Features	Yes
D: The Greater Sage-Grouse Monitoring Framework	No
E: Greater Sage-Grouse (GRSG) Disturbance Caps	Yes
F: Greater Sage-Grouse - Mitigation and Mitigation Measures	Yes
G: Adaptive Management Strategy for GRSG Habitat Management	Yes
H: Best Management Practices	Yes
I: Incorporating GRSG RMP Decisions into Grazing Authorizations	No
J: Fluid Minerals: Procedures in Oil and Gas Recovery and Operations and Summary of the Billings Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenario	No
K: Biological Opinion	No
L: Wildlife Resources	No
M: Coal Resources: Coal Development Potential and Unsuitability Criteria	No
N: SRMA and ERMA Tables	No
O: Visual Resource Management Program	No
P: Air Quality Resource Management Plan: Adaptive Management Strategy for Oil and Gas Resources	No
Q: Implementation and Monitoring	No
R: Bureau of Land Management Billings Field Office and Pompeys Pillar National Monument Sign Plan	No
S: Oil and Gas Lease Stipulations	Yes
T: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	No
U: Cultural and Heritage Resources	No
V: Recreational Setting Characteristics	No
W: Realty, Cadastral Survey, and Lands	No
X: Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	No
Y: Screening Criteria Checklist for Ten Year Grazing Permit / Lease Renewal and Transfers	No
Z: PFC – Proper Functioning Condition	No
AA: 1975 Memorandum between Montana and Wyoming - Administration of the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range	No
AB: Summary of Eligibility, Suitability, and Tentative Classification Determinations for Rivers in the Billings Field Office	No
AC: Land Health Standards	No

Appendix 2.4

Butte RMP Revision

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2.4 BUTTE RMP REVISION

This appendix presents the approved RMP revision language from the 2009 record of decision for the Butte RMP that relate to GRSG management. The Butte RMP was not amended with GRSG decisions in 2015 or 2019 due to the limited extent and quality of GRSG habitat present within the Butte Field Office (see 2015 Idaho and Southwestern Montana GRSG Plan). The table below notes which goals, objectives, appendices, and management decisions/actions have a potential to change as a result of the current planning effort and if so, under which alternatives changes are being considered. Note that any references to tables and appendices are to those applicable 2009 appendices that are listed in **Section 2.4.2** of this appendix.

2.4.1 Existing GRSG RMP Management – 2009 Butte RMP Revision

Table 1. Summary of Goals, Objectives, and Management Actions in Butte RMP

Butte RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions: Vegetation Communities	
Wildlife. MA 27. Vegetation altering activities could occur in sage grouse habitat where they do not result in long-term loss of habitats or contribute to the need to federally list sage grouse. Sufficient sagebrush densities and cover will be retained in sage grouse habitat. (Goals WF5, WF7, SE4)	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Grassland and Shrubland Vegetation. MA 1: When necessary, sagebrush and grassland distribution and vigor will be restored through vegetative treatments such as reducing conifer encroachment, reducing noxious weeds, and ensuring proper grazing practices (season of use or intensity). (Goals GS1, LG2, FM2, NW1, WF1, WF2)	No change proposed.
Grassland and Shrubland Vegetation. MA 2: Management of sagebrush habitats will be a priority based on concerns over the conservation status of sage grouse, pygmy rabbit, and other species associated with sagebrush and grassland habitats. (Goals GS1, GS2, WF1, WF2, WF5, WF7).	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Resources	
Wildlife. Goal WF7 – Protect, maintain, restore, and rehabilitate sagebrush habitat in occupied or historic sage grouse habitat (as mapped by MFWP).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Wildlife. MA 25. Sage grouse management activities will be designed and implemented to be consistent with adopted conservation strategies such as the Bureau of Land Management National Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy (USDI-BLM 2004) and Management Plan and Conservation Strategies for Sage Grouse in Montana – Final (MSGWG 2005) and current, accepted science. (Goals WF6, WF7, GS1, GS2, SE4)	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Grassland and Shrubland Vegetation. Goal 1: Management of sagebrush habitats will be a priority based on concerns over the conservation status of sage grouse, pygmy rabbit, and other species associated with sagebrush and grassland habitats. (Goals GS1, GS2, WF1, WF2, WF5, WF7)	No change proposed.

Butte RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Wildlife. MA 26. To the extent possible, BLM will: maintain large patches of high quality sagebrush in occupied or historic sage grouse habitat (as mapped by MFWP); maintain connections between sagebrush habitats; and enlarge the size of sagebrush patches in occupied or historic sage grouse habitat. (Goals GS2, WF2, WF5, WF6, WF7, SE4)	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Fluid Mineral Resources	
Fluid Leaseable Minerals Table 23 Lease Terms and Stipulations. Sage Grouse Strutting Grounds (leks) NSO ¼	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Fluid Leaseable Minerals Table 23 Lease Terms and Stipulations. Sage Grouse Winter/Spring Range TL 12/1-5/15	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Table 2. Dillon and Butte Habitat Objectives of GRSG

Attribute	Indicator	Habitat Condition	Reference
LEK HABITAT (Seasonal Use Period March 1 – May 15) I			
Lek Security	Proximity of trees	Trees (i.e., in Idaho mainly juniper, conifers, and does not include old-growth juniper, pinyon pine and mountain mahogany; in Montana mainly Douglas-fir) absent or uncommon on shrub/grassland ecological sites within 1.86 miles (3 km) of occupied leks.	Baruch-Mordo et al.2013 Stiver et al. 2015
	Proximity of sagebrush to leks	Adjacent protective sagebrush cover within 328 ft. (100 m) of an occupied lek	Stiver et al. 2015
NESTING/EARLY BROOD REARING (Seasonal Use Period May 1 – June 30) I			
Cover and Food	Sagebrush cover ²	15-25%	Connelly et al. 2000 Connelly et al. 2003 Hagen et al. 2007
	Sagebrush height Arid sites ³ Mesic sites ⁴	12-31 inches (30-80cm) 16-31 inches (40-80cm)	Connelly et al. 2000
	Predominant sagebrush shape	Predominantly spreading shape ⁵	Stiver et al. 2015
	Perennial grass cover (such as native bunchgrasses) ² Arid sites ³ Mesic sites ⁴	>10% >15%	Connelly et al. 2000 Stiver et al. 2015
	Perennial grass (and forb) height (includes residual grasses)	≥ 7 inches	Connelly et al. 2000 Connelly et al. 2003 Hagen et al. 2007 Stiver et al. 2015
	Perennial forb cover ² Arid sites ³ Mesic sites ⁴	>5% >10%	Connelly et al. 2000
	Perennial forb availability	Preferred forbs are common with several species present ⁶	Stiver et al. 2015

Attribute	Indicator	Habitat Condition	Reference
LATE BROOD-REARING/SUMMER (July-October) I Late brood-rearing areas, such as riparia			
Cover and Food	Sagebrush cover ²	Uplands 10-25% Riparian/Meadow: Sagebrush cover within 100 m	Connelly et al. 2000
	Sagebrush height	16 to 32 inches (40-80cm)	Connelly et al. 2000
	Perennial grass and forb cover ²	>15%	
	Upland and riparian perennial forb availability ²	Preferred forbs are common with appropriate numbers of species present, ⁶	Stiver et al. 2015
	Riparian and/or meadow habitat condition	Proper Functioning Condition	Stiver et al. 2015
WINTER November-March I (Apply to areas of known or likely winter-use)			
Cover and Food	Sagebrush cover and height above snow,	Sagebrush is at least 10 inches (25 cm) above snow and ≥10% cover ¹⁶	Connelly et al. 2000 Stiver et al. 2015

Notes:

¹ Seasonal dates can be adjusted by local unit according to geographic region.

² Since plant species and/or life forms may overlap, total vegetative cover, inclusive of shrubs, forbs and grasses may exceed 100%.

³ Arid corresponds to the 10 – 12 inch precipitation zone; *Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis* is a common big sagebrush subspecies for this type site (Stiver et al. 2015).

⁴ Mesic corresponds to the >12 inch precipitation zone; *Artemisia tridentata vaseyana* is a common big sagebrush sub-species for this type site (Stiver et al. 2015).

⁵ Collectively the indicators for sagebrush (cover, height, and shape), perennial grass and perennial forb (cover, height and/or availability) represent the desired condition range for nesting/early brood rearing habitat characteristics, consistent with the breeding habitat suitability matrix identified in Stiver et al. 2015. Sagebrush plants that are more tree or columnar-shaped provide less protective cover near the ground than sagebrush plants with a spreading shape (Stiver et al. 2015). Some sagebrush plants are naturally columnar (e.g., Great Basin big sagebrush), and a natural part of the plant community. However, a predominance of columnar shape arising from animal impacts may warrant management investigation or adjustments at site specific scales.

⁶ Preferred forbs are listed in Stiver et al. 2015. Overall total forb cover may be greater than that of preferred forb cover since not all forb species are listed as preferred.

¹⁵ Some late brood habitat occurs at higher elevations outside of mapped nesting habitat and some is embedded within nesting landscapes especially areas such as wet meadows, riparian areas, springs and seeps.

¹⁶ Winter habitat metrics are a guideline but snow depths and habitat availability may vary widely depending on winter severity, topography and elevation.

2.4.2 Relevant Appendices

The following table shows which appendices from 2009 plan have management direction that may change through this RMP amendment. The appendices can be found on [the Butte RMP ePlanning website](#).

ARMPA Appendix Name	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
A: Travel Planning	No
B: Laws	No
C: Visual Resource Management (VRM)	No
D: SIMPPLLE Model	No
E: Best Management Practices	Yes
F: Land Health Standards	No
G: Wildlife	No
H: Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS)	No
I: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)	No
J: Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR)	No
K: Cultural	No
L: Lands and Realty	No
M: Fluid Minerals	Yes
N: Implementation and Monitoring	No

Appendix 2.5
Dillon RMP Amendment

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2.5 DILLON RMP AMENDMENT

This appendix presents the GRSG approved RMP amendment language from the 2015 record of decision for the Dillon RMP. The Dillon RMP was not amended in 2019. The table below notes which goals, objectives, appendices, and management decisions/actions have a potential to change as a result of the current planning effort and if so, under which alternatives changes are being considered. Note that any references to tables and appendices are to those applicable 2015 appendices that are listed in **Section 2.5.2** of this appendix.

2.5.1 Existing GRSG RMP Management – Dillon RMP Amendment

Table 1. Summary of Goals, Objectives, and Management Actions in Dillon 2015 ARMPs/Amendments

Dillon 2015 RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions: Vegetation Communities	
Objective SSS 1: Maintain or make progress toward all lands within PHMA and IHMA (at least 70%) capable of producing sagebrush so there is a minimum of 15 percent sagebrush cover and conifers absent to uncommon within 1.86 miles of occupied leks.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Objective VEG 3: In all SFA and PHMA, the desired condition is to maintain all lands ecologically capable of producing sagebrush (but no less than 70%) with a minimum of 15% sagebrush canopy cover or as consistent with specific ecological site conditions. The attributes necessary to sustain these habitats are described in Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health (BLM Tech Ref 1734-6).	No change proposed.
MD VEG 8: Remove conifers encroaching into sagebrush habitats, in a manner that considers tribal cultural values. Prioritize treatments closest to occupied GRSG habitats and near occupied leks, and where juniper encroachment is phase 1 or phase 2. Use of site-specific analysis and tools like the FIAT report (Chambers et. al., 2014) will help refine the location for specific areas to be treated.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Dillon 2015 RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Objective VEG 2: Increase the amount and functionality of seasonal habitats by: a. Increasing or enhancing canopy cover and average patch size of sagebrush. b. Increasing the amount, condition and connectivity of seasonal habitats. c. Protecting or improving GRSG migration/movement corridors. d. Reducing conifer encroachment within GRSG seasonal habitats. e. Improving understory (grass, forb) and/or riparian condition within breeding and late broodrearing habitats. f. Reducing the extent of annual grasslands within and adjacent to PHMA and IHMA. Decadal treatment objectives by population area are identified in Table 2-3, Estimated Acres of Treatment Needed within a 10-Year Period to Achieve Vegetation Objectives on BLM Administered Lands I.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Objective VEG 1: Reconnect and expand areas of higher native plant community integrity/rangeland health to increase the extent of high quality habitat and, where possible, to accommodate the future effects of climate change.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 1: Implement habitat rehabilitation or restoration projects in areas that have potential to improve GRSG habitat using a full array of treatment activities as appropriate, including chemical, mechanical and seeding treatments.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 2: Implement vegetation rehabilitation or manipulation projects to enhance sagebrush cover or to promote diverse and healthy grass and forb understory to achieve the greatest improvement in GRSG habitat based on FIAT Assessments, HAF assessments, other vegetative assessment data and local, site specific factors that indicate sagebrush canopy cover or herbaceous conditions do not meet habitat management objectives (i.e. is minimal or exceeds optimal characteristics). This may necessitate the use of prescribed fire as a site preparation technique to remove annual grass residual growth prior to the use of herbicides in the restoration of certain lower elevation sites (e.g., Wyoming big sagebrush) but such efforts will be carefully planned and coordinated to minimize impacts on GRSG seasonal habitats.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD VEG 3: Require use of native seeds for restoration based on availability, adaptation (ecological site potential), and probability of success (Richards et al. 1998). Non-native seeds may be used as long as they support GRSG habitat objectives (Pyke 2011) to increase probability of success, when adapted seed availability is low or to compete with invasive species especially on harsher sites.	No change proposed.

Dillon 2015 RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD VEG 4: Implement management changes in restoration and rehabilitation areas, as necessary, to maintain suitable GRSG habitat, improve unsuitable GRSG habitat and to ensure long-term persistence of improved GRSG habitat (Eiswerth and Shonkwiler 2006). Management changes can be considered during livestock grazing permit renewals, travel management planning, and renewal or reauthorization of ROWs.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 5: Consider establishing seed harvest areas that are managed for seed production (Armstrong 2007) to provide a reliable source of locally adapted seed to use during rehabilitation and restoration activities.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 9: Incorporate results of the FIAT Assessments into projects and activities addressing invasive species as appropriate.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD VEG 10: Implement noxious weed and invasive species control using integrated vegetation management actions per national guidance and local weed management plans for Cooperative Weed Management Areas in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, affected counties, and adjoining private lands owners.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 11: Conduct integrated weed management actions for noxious and invasive weed populations that are impacting or threatening GRSG habitat quality using a variety of eradication and control techniques including chemical, mechanical and other appropriate means.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 12: Require project proponent (projects described in MD SSS 27 and which are included in the anthropogenic disturbance cap evaluation) to ensure that noxious weeds and invasive species caused as a result of the project are treated to eliminate establishment on the disturbed project construction areas for at least 3 years and monitored and treated during the life of the project.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 13: Treat areas that contain cheatgrass and other invasive or noxious species to minimize competition and favor establishment of desired species.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 6: Allocate use of native seed to GRSG or ESA listed species habitat in years when preferred native seed is in short supply. This may require reallocation of native seed from ESR projects outside of PHMA or IHMA to those inside it. Where probability of success or native seed availability is low, nonnative seeds may be used as long as they meet GRSG habitat conservation objectives (Pyke 2011). Re-establishment of appropriate sagebrush species/subspecies and important understory plants, relative to site potential, shall be the highest priority for rehabilitation efforts.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Dillon 2015 RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD VEG 7: During land health assessments, evaluate the relative value of existing nonnative seeding within GRSG habitat as: 1) a component of a grazing system allowing improvement of adjacent native vegetation, 2) development of a forage reserve, 3) incorporation into a fuel break system (Davies et al. 2011) or 4) restoration/diversification for GRSG habitat improvement. Where appropriate and feasible, diversify seedings, or restore to native vegetation when potential benefits to GRSG habitat outweigh the other potential uses of the non-native seeding, with emphasis on PHMA and IHMA. Allow recolonization of seedings by sagebrush and other native vegetation.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Resources	
Goal SSS 1: Maintain and/or increase the abundance, distribution and connectivity of GRSG by conserving, enhancing and restoring GRSG habitat to maintain resilient populations by reducing, eliminating or minimizing threats to GRSG habitats.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Goal SSS 2: Provide for the needs of GRSG and their habitat while also providing for resource uses in accordance with BLM's direction for multiple use and sustained yield as described in FLPMA.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Objective SSS 3: Maintain a resilient population of GRSG in Idaho and Southwestern Montana.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Goal SSS 5: Conserve, enhance, and restore the sagebrush ecosystem upon which GRSG populations depend in an effort to maintain and/or increase their abundance and distribution, in cooperation with other conservation partners.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Goal SSS 4: Reduce the risk of West Nile Virus or other disease outbreaks from BLM management actions.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS - 5: Prioritize activities and mitigation to conserve, enhance and restore GRSG habitats (i.e., fire suppression activities, fuels management activities, vegetation treatments, invasive species treatments etc.) first by Conservation Area, if appropriate (Conservation Area under adaptive management or at risk of meeting an adaptive management soft or hard trigger), followed by PHMA, then IHMA then GHMA within the Conservation Areas. Local priority areas within these areas will be further refined as a result of completing the GRSG Wildfire and Invasive Species Habitat Assessments as described in Appendix H. This can include projects outside GRSG habitat when those projects will provide a benefit to GRSG habitat.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Dillon 2015 RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD SSS 2: Within each Conservation Area designate GRSG Habitat Management Areas: Priority, Important and General Habitat Management Areas (Figure 2-1). Priority Habitat Management Areas (PHMA) focus on conserving the two key meta-populations in the subregion. PHMA encompasses areas with the highest conservation value to GRSG, based on the presence of larger leks, habitat extent, important movement and connectivity corridors and winter habitat. PHMA include adequate area to accommodate continuation of existing land uses and landowner activities. Important Habitat Management Areas (IHMA) contain additional habitat and populations that provide a management buffer for the PHMA and to connect patches of PHMA. IHMA encompasses areas of generally moderate to high conservation value habitat and/or populations and in some Conservation Areas includes areas beyond those identified by USFWS as necessary to maintain redundant, representative and resilient populations (Priority Areas for Conservation (PACs)). IHMA are typically adjacent to PHMA but generally reflect somewhat lower GRSG population status and/or reduced habitat value due to disturbance, habitat fragmentation or other factors. There are no IHMA designated within the Southwestern Montana Conservation Area. General Habitat Management Areas (GHMA) encompass habitat that is outside of PHMA or IHMA. GHMA contain approximately 10 percent of the occupied leks that are also of relatively low male attendance compared to leks in PHMA or IHMA. GHMA are generally characterized by lower quality disturbed or patchy habitat of low lek connectivity.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS- 3: In Montana, designate PHMA to encompass Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks 2009 Greater Sage Grouse Core Area designations.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 10 - Designate Sagebrush Focal Areas (SFA) as shown on Figure 1-2. SFA will be managed as PHMA, with the following additional management: * Recommended for withdrawal from the General Mining Act of 1872, as amended, subject to valid existing rights. * Managed as NSO, without waiver, exception, or modification, for fluid mineral leasing. * Prioritized for vegetation management and conservation actions in these areas, including, but not limited to land health assessments, wild horse and burro management actions, review of livestock grazing permits/leases, and habitat restoration (see specific management sections).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Objective SSS 4: Designate GRSG management areas and associated management to maintain a resilient population and to designate strategically located adjacent areas to provide a buffer from unpredictable habitat loss such as wildfire to the resilient population areas.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Dillon 2015 RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Objective SSS 5: Identify and strategically protect larger intact sagebrush areas and areas of lower fragmentation to maintain GRSG population persistence.	No change proposed.
MD SSS-1: Designate five GRSG Conservation Areas (see Glossary) within the subregion to form the geographic basis for achieving population objectives; evaluating the disturbance density and adaptive regulatory triggers; and tailor adaptive management responses. These conservation areas are depicted in Figure 2-13. These areas are referred to as Mountain Valleys, Desert, West Owyhee, Southern and Southwestern Montana Conservation Areas. Conservation Area Description [....] Southwestern Montana – located in southwestern Montana - encompassing the Dillon Butte BLM Field Office and Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest boundaries (the Butte RMP is not being amended and since there are limited GRSG federal GHMA, management actions do not apply in the Butte Field Office).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 6 - The management area map and Biologically Significant Unit (BSU) baseline map will be reevaluated in conjunction with plan evaluation processes (i.e. approximately every 5 years). This reevaluation can indicate the need to adjust PHMA, IHMA or GHMA or the habitat baseline. These adjustments can occur upon completion of the appropriate analysis and process (e.g., plan amendment) to review the allocation decisions based on the map. Results from the Wildfire and Invasive Species Assessments, such as identified focal or emphasis areas will also be used to help inform mapping adjustments during this evaluation.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 7 - GRSG habitat within the project area will be assessed during project-level NEPA analysis within the management area designations (PHMA, IHMA, GHMA). Project proposals and their effects will be evaluated based on the habitat and values affected.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Dillon 2015 RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD SSS 8 - Idaho BLM will annually update the Key Habitat map, in order to reflect habitat changes resulting from wildfire, succession, and vegetation treatments that occurred or were observed since the last update. Key habitat includes areas of generally intact sagebrush that provide sage-grouse habitat during some portion of the year. This map also identifies potential restoration areas (perennial grassland annual grasslands, conifer encroachment and recent burns). This map a broad scale current vegetation map that changes as habitat is lost or restored. The Key Habitat Map is not an allocation decision such as PHMA, IHMA, and GHMA. Updates to the map will also occur if it is determined that mapping errors or omissions have occurred, or that radio-telemetry studies indicate that GRSG are consistently utilizing an area. Updates are also intended to capture recommendations by the field offices, GRSG Local Working Groups, or agency partners in GRSG conservation. Project-level evaluations of GRSG habitat during the NEPA process can also be used to inform the annual update.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 9 - Areas of habitat outside of delineated habitat management areas identified during the Key habitat update process will be evaluated during site specific NEPA for project level activities and GRSG required design features (Appendix C) and buffers (Appendix B) will be included as part of project design. These areas will be further evaluated during plan evaluation and the 5-year update to the management areas, to determine whether they should be included as PHMA, IHMA, or GHMA.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 32 - Incorporate RDFs as described in Appendix C in the development of project or proposal implementation, reauthorizations or new authorizations and suppression activities, as conditions of approval (COAs) into any post-lease activities and as best management practices for locatable minerals activities, to the extent allowable by law, unless at least one of the following conditions can be demonstrated and documented in the NEPA analysis associated with the specific project: - A specific RDF is not applicable to the site-specific conditions of the project or activity; - A proposed design feature or BMP is determined to provide equal or better protection for GRSG or its habitat; or - Analysis concludes that following a specific RDF will provide no more protection to GRSG or its habitat than not following it, for the project being proposed.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 33 - Conduct implementation and project activities, including construction and short-term anthropogenic disturbances consistent with seasonal habitat restrictions described in Appendix C.	No change proposed.

Dillon 2015 RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD SSS 34 - RDFs and seasonal habitat restrictions will not be required for emergency or short-term activities necessary to protect and preserve human life or property.	No change proposed.
MD SSS 35 - In undertaking BLM management actions, and consistent with valid and existing rights and applicable law in authorizing third-party actions, the BLM will apply the lek buffer-distances identified in the USGS Report Conservation Buffer Distance Estimates for Greater Sage-Grouse – A Review (Open File Report 2014-1239) in accordance with Appendix B.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 38: Monitor the effectiveness of projects (e.g., fuel breaks, fuels treatments) until objectives have been met or until it is determined that objectives cannot be met, according to the monitoring schedule identified for project implementation.	No change proposed.
MD SSS 43: Monitor GRSG habitat as described in the monitoring framework plan (Appendix D) in coordination with IDFG and Montana FWP.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 37 - Once FIAT Assessments are complete, annually complete a review of FIAT Assessment implementation efforts within GRSG habitat with appropriate USFWS and state agency personnel.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 41: Use lek, nesting and winter habitat maps and key habitat map (updates) to annually assess GRSG population and habitat status in the context of the adaptive management triggers.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 42: Continue to support updates to the Key Habitat map to track vegetation changes in relation to GRSG habitat on a yearly basis, until such a time this process is replaced. The process used to update the Key Habitat Map is described in Appendix F of the FEIS.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Decisions: Coordination	
MD CC 1: Collaborate, coordinate and utilize cooperative planning efforts to implement and monitor activities to achieve desired conditions and to maximize the utilization of available funding opportunities. Coordination efforts can include: adjacent landowners, federal and state agencies, local governments, tribes, communities, other agencies, resource advisory groups, public lands permit holders and nongovernmental organizations.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD CC 2: Develop a cooperative MOU between the BLM, Forest Service and State of Idaho to establish the State of Idaho as a cooperating agency during implementation of the final decision. The MOU will identify responsibilities, role and interaction of the BLM, Forest Service and State of Idaho. Montana BLM will participate as appropriate on Montana's Sage-grouse Oversight Team to facilitate coordination and implementation of BLM's final decision and Montana's Executive Order No. 10-2014.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Dillon 2015 RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD CC 3: The BLM will consider any recommendations from the Governor of Idaho as a result of evaluation completed by the Sage-Grouse Implementation Task Force.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD CC 4: Idaho: The BLM will coordinate with the State of Idaho and the Idaho Sage-Grouse Implementation Task Force regarding proposed management changes, the implementation of conservation measures, mitigation, and site-specific monitoring, related to adaptive management, anthropogenic disturbance and livestock grazing.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD CC 5: Montana: The BLM will coordinate with the State of Montana and the Montana Sage-grouse Oversight Team regarding proposed management changes, the implementation of conservation measures, mitigation, and site-specific monitoring, related to adaptive management and anthropogenic disturbance.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD CC 6: Upon completion of the Record of Decision the BLM will develop an initial Implementation Guide for BLM District and Field Offices within a year of issuance of the Record of Decision. This Guide will define and describe consistent application of the allocations, management actions, required design features, and etc. that are contained within the final plan and will be updated and expanded as needed to respond to issues and concerns.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD CC 7: At the state level, BLM will coordinate with IDFG, MFWP, USFWS, and other conservation partners in collaborative efforts with adjacent states (Oregon, Nevada, Utah, Montana, Wyoming) in GRSG MZs IV and II to evaluate GRSG habitat and population status and trends and make appropriate regional recommendations for GRSG conservation at broader scales.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD CC 8: At the state level, BLM will coordinate with the appropriate WAFWA Sage-grouse Technical Committee to develop consistent population and habitat monitoring approaches that facilitate GRSG conservation at the MZ scale.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD CC 9: All prescribed burning will be coordinated with state and local air quality agencies to ensure that local air quality is not significantly impacted by BLM activities.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Habitat Objectives	
[Original language updated through plan maintenance action in 2018] The habitat objectives for GRSG (Table 2.3-2) is a list of indicators, characteristics, and values that describe GRSG seasonal habitat use areas. The BLM used indicator values derived from a synthesis of local and regional GRSG habitat research and data to describe the typical vegetation communities that sage-grouse select. While the habitat objectives are not attainable on every site or every acre within designated GRSG habitat management areas,	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Dillon 2015 RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
the values reflect a range of habitat conditions that generally lead to greater survival of individuals within a population. When permitting land use activities, BLM should consider the ecological site potential within designated habitat management areas to validate the habitat conditions achievable for a specific site. The seasonal habitat descriptions in Table 2.3-2 vary across the range of sage-grouse, within a subregion, and between sites. They are not land health standards but are quantitative measures that inform the Special Status Species Habitat Land Health Standard for sage-grouse. These measurable values reflect ecological potential, and may be adjusted based on local factors influencing sage-grouse habitat selection. Local data or recent science may indicate that sage-grouse select for vegetation structure and composition in seasonal habitats not characterized by the values in the habitat objectives table. In these cases, it may be appropriate to adjust the values. Habitat objectives should be evaluated in the context of annual variability in ecological conditions and should not be used singly to determine habitat suitability for sage-grouse. They may be used to demonstrate trends over time, during plan evaluations for effectiveness of sage-grouse conservation, or when identify limiting habitat characteristics for a given area. The indicators, characteristics, values and desired seasonal habitat conditions in the GRSG Plan Habitat Objectives Table are meant to inform the wildlife habitat component of the Land Health Standards evaluation process (LHS, 43 CFR 4180.2), but do not replace rangeland health assessments. Results from the LHS evaluation should be used to support BLM in land use authorization processes and during development of objectives for management actions such as vegetation treatments. BLM land use authorizations will contain terms and conditions regarding the actions needed to achieve or make progress toward achieving habitat objectives and land health standards. The Habitat Objectives Tables are to be used: • To assess habitat suitability for sage-grouse following the BLM policy on sage-grouse habitat assessments • To evaluate land use plan effectiveness for sage-grouse conservation, and • As a basis to develop measurable project objectives for actions in BLM-designated GRSG Habitat Management areas when considered alongside land health standards, ecological potential and local information. References: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. 2001. Rangeland health standards handbook H-4180-1. https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/uploads/Media_Library_BLM_Policy_h4180-1.pdf	(See above.)

Dillon 2015 RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions: Disturbance	
Goal SSS 3: Manage anthropogenic development and human disturbance to minimize the likelihood of adverse population level effects on GRSG.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 27 - For Idaho and Montana, if the 3 percent anthropogenic disturbance cap is exceeded on lands (regardless of land ownership) within GRSG PHMA (or IHMA in Idaho) Habitat Management Areas in any given BSU, then no further discrete anthropogenic disturbances (subject to applicable laws and regulations, such as the General Mining Law of 1872, as amended, valid existing rights, etc.) will be permitted by BLM within GRSG PHMA and IHMA in any given BSU until the disturbance has been reduced to less than the cap, as measured according to the Disturbance and Adaptive Management Appendix (Appendix E) for the intermediate scale. For Montana, if the 3 percent disturbance cap is exceeded on lands (regardless of land ownership) or if anthropogenic disturbance and habitat loss associated with conversion to agricultural tillage or fire exceed 5% within a project analysis area in PHMA, then no further discrete anthropogenic disturbances (subject to applicable laws and regulations, such as the 1872 Mining Law, valid existing rights, etc.) will be permitted by BLM within PHMA in a project analysis area until the disturbance has been reduced to less than the cap. If the BLM determines that the State of Montana has adopted a GRSG Habitat Conservation Program that contains comparable components to those found in the State of Wyoming's Core Area Strategy including an all lands approach for calculating anthropogenic disturbances, a clear methodology for measuring the density of operations, and a fully operational Density Disturbance Calculation Tool, the 3% disturbance cap will be converted to a 5% cap for all sources of habitat alteration within a project analysis area. In both Idaho and Montana, within existing designated utility corridors, the 3% disturbance cap may be exceeded at the project scale if the site specific NEPA analysis indicates that a net conservation gain to the species will be achieved. This exception is limited to projects which fulfill the use for which the corridors were designated (ex., transmission lines, pipelines) and the designated width of a corridor will not be exceeded as a result of any project co-location. [Management action clarified in 2018 to reflect State of Montana process, under DOI-BLM-MT-2018-0005-CX. RMP Maintenance Action Language: This maintenance action is to clarify that the BLM has determined that the State's all lands approach to analyzing disturbance is operational and effective. Therefore, the BLM will adopt and implement the State's approach as identified in Attachments D (Stipulations for Uses and Activities) and H (definitions) of Montana Executive Order 12-2015.]	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Dillon 2015 RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD SSS 28 - New anthropogenic disturbances within PHMA or IHMA within a Conservation Area where the disturbance cap is already exceeded from any source or where the proposed development will result in the cap being exceeded will not be allowed in within that Conservation Area until enough habitat has been restored within that Conservation Area to maintain the area under this cap (subject to valid existing rights).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 30 - In Montana, the BLM will apply the project/action screen and mitigation process (Appendix J).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Montana 1: BLM will establish an inter-agency State GRSG Conservation Team at the state level (both Idaho and Montana) to help guide conservation of GRSG through compensatory mitigation, within 90 days of the issuance of the Record of Decision.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Montana 2: The BLM, in coordination with the GRSG Conservation Team will develop a Mitigation Strategy within one year of the issuance of the Record of Decision. In Idaho this strategy will be consistent with the Idaho Mitigation Framework (Appendix F).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Montana 3: In all GRSG habitat, in undertaking BLM management actions, and, consistent with valid existing rights and applicable law, in authorizing third-party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation (Appendix E, Table E-1), the BLM will require and ensure mitigation that provides a net conservation gain to the species including accounting for any uncertainty associated with the effectiveness of such mitigation. This will be achieved by avoiding, minimizing, and compensating for impacts by applying beneficial mitigation actions.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Montana 4: Mitigate anthropogenic development (Appendix E, Table E-1) impacts on GRSG habitat through application of appropriate mitigation in accordance with the Mitigation Framework (Appendix F and L).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Montana 5: Consistent with regulations for minerals activities, require a full reclamation bond specific to the site when surface disturbing activities are proposed. Ensure reclamation bonds are sufficient to cover costs to fully rehabilitate lost GRSG habitat. Base the reclamation costs on the assumption that contractors for the BLM will perform the work. Areas are considered fully rehabilitated when they meet the conditions described in Table 2-2.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 17 - Habitat Hard Triggers are defined as: - A 20 percent loss of Key Habitat within the BSU of the PHMA of a Conservation Area when compared to the 2011 baseline, inclusive of all land ownerships or - A 20 percent loss of Key Habitat within the BSU of the IHMA of a Conservation Area when compared to the 2011 baseline.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

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MD SSS 18 - Habitat Soft Triggers are defined as: - A 10 percent loss of Key Habitat within the BSU of the PHMA of a Conservation Area when compared to the 2011 baseline; or - A 10 percent loss of Key Habitat within the BSU of the IHMA of a Conservation Area when compared to the 2011 baseline.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 19 -Population Hard Triggers are defined as: - A 20 percent decline in the current 3-year average of total maximum number of males counted compared to the 2011 maximum male baseline and a finite rate of change significantly below 1.0 within PHMA within a Conservation Area over the same 3-year period; or - A 20 percent decline in the current 3-year average of total maximum number of males counted compared to the 2011 maximum male baseline and a finite rate of change significantly below 1.0 within IHMA within a Conservation Area over the same 3-year period. - Significance is defined by the 90 percent confidence interval around the current 3-year finite rate of change. If the 90 percent confidence interval is less than, and does not include 1.0, then the finite rate of change is considered significant. The finite rate of change and variance will be calculated following Garton et al. (2011).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 20 -Population Soft Triggers are defined as: - A 10 percent decline in the current 3-year average of total maximum number of males counted compared to the 2011 maximum male baseline and a finite rate of change below 1.0 within PHMA within a Conservation Area over the same 3-year period; or - A 10 percent decline in the current 3-year average of total maximum number of males counted compared to the 2011 maximum male baseline and a finite rate of change below 1.0 within IHMA within a Conservation Area over the same 3-year period.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 21 - When any of the Criteria for Soft Triggers have been met the Implementation Team will evaluate causal factors and recommend additional potential implementation level activities (Appendix E).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 22 - When any of the Criteria for Hard Triggers have been met then all PHMA management actions will be applied to the IHMA within that Conservation Area and the Implementation Team will evaluate causal factors and recommend additional potential implementation level activities.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 23 - If an adaptive regulatory trigger is tripped and livestock grazing is identified as a probable limiting factor then adjustments will follow the Adaptive Grazing Management Response described in Appendix E.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

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MD SSS 24 - Remove any adaptive management response when the habitat or maximum male population count (i.e., 3-year average) returns to or exceeds the 2011 baseline levels within the associated Conservation Area in accordance with the Adaptive Management Strategy (Appendix E). In such a case, changes in management allocations resulting from a tripped trigger will revert back to the original allocation (MD SSS 22).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 25: Montana: Follow the NPT Adaptive Management Guidance and Sideboards. When a hard trigger is hit in a BSU, the designated response will be put in place in that BSU. Triggers and responses have been developed with local state and USFWS experts (Appendix E).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 26 - Idaho and Montana: When a hard trigger is hit in a BSU within a PAC that has multiple BSUs, including those that cross state lines, the WAFWA Management Zone Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Team will convene to determine the causal factor, put project-level responses in place, as appropriate and discuss further appropriate actions to be applied. The team will also investigate the status of the hard triggers in other BSUs within the PAC and will invoke the appropriate plan response.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 12 - Utilize monitoring information collected through the Monitoring Framework (Appendix D) to determine when adaptive regulatory triggers have been met.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS- 4: Annually prioritize Conservation Areas at the state scale considering results of the annual adaptive regulatory trigger evaluations relative to implementation of restoration and mitigation activities.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Decisions: Wildland Fire Ecology and Management	
Objective FIRE 2: Manage wildfires to minimize loss of sagebrush and protect GRSG habitat.	No change proposed.

Dillon 2015 RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD FIRE 31: If prescribed fire is used in GRSG habitat, the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan will address: · why alternative techniques were not selected as a viable options; · how GRSG goals and objectives will be met by its use; · how the COT Report objectives will be addressed and met; · a risk assessment to address how potential threats to GRSG habitat will be minimized. Allow prescribed fire as a vegetation or fuels treatment in Wyoming big sagebrush sites or other xeric sagebrush species sites, or in areas with a potential for post-fire exotic annual dominance only after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Prescribed fire can be used to meet specific fuels objectives that will protect Greater Sage-Grouse habitat in PHMA (e.g., creation of fuel breaks that will disrupt the fuel continuity across the landscape in stands where annual invasive grasses are a minor component in the understory, burning slash piles from conifer reduction treatments, used as a component with other treatment methods to combat annual grasses and restore native plant communities). Allow prescribed fire in known sage-grouse winter range only after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Any prescribed fire in winter habitat will need to be designed to strategically reduce wildfire risk around and/or in the winter range and designed to protect winter range habitat quality.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 15: Suppression priorities: The protection of human life is the single, overriding priority. Setting priorities among protecting human communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources will be done based on the values to be protected, human health and safety, and the costs of protection. Maintaining GRSG habitat will be the highest natural resources priority immediately after human life and property, commensurate with threatened and endangered species habitat or other critical habitats to be protected.	No change proposed.
Objective FIRE 1: Design fuel treatments to restore, enhance, or maintain GRSG habitat.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 29: Prioritize the use of native seeds for fuels management treatment based on availability, adaptation (site potential), and probability of success. Where probability of success or native seed availability is low or non-economical, nonnative seeds may be used to meet GRSG habitat objectives to trend toward restoring the fire regime. When reseeding, use fire resistant native and nonnative species, as appropriate, to provide for fuel breaks.	No change proposed.

Dillon 2015 RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD FIRE 1: (Wildfire Preparedness): Support development and implementation of Rangeland Fire Protection Associations (RFPAs) in coordination with the State of Idaho.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD FIRE 2: Develop a consistent approach to fire restrictions within GRSG habitat through the existing coordinated inter-agency approach to fire restrictions based upon National Fire Danger Rating System thresholds (fuel conditions, drought conditions, and predicted weather patterns).	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 3: Annually incorporate into existing fire management plans results and updates from the Wildfire and Invasive Species Habitat Assessments (FIAT Assessments) described in Appendix H, to communicate/explain the resource value of GRSG habitat, including fire prevention messages and actions to reduce human-caused ignitions.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD FIRE 4: Continue to participate with the Wildland Fire Leadership Council, a cooperative, interagency organization dedicated to achieving consistent implementation of the goals, actions, and policies in the National Fire Plan and the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 5: Continue annual coordination meetings held between cooperating agencies that have fire suppression responsibilities. Incorporate Rangeland Fire Protection Associations and other stakeholders into this coordination. Discuss priority suppression areas and distribute maps showing priority suppression areas at both the Conservation Area and the local office levels as based on the adaptive management strategy and FIAT Assessments.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD FIRE 6: Ensure firefighter personnel receive annual orientation regarding GRSG habitat and sagebrush management issues as related to wildfire suppression.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 7: As part of the FIAT Assessments, identify roads, trails, and recreational use areas with high frequency of human caused fires within or adjacent to the PHMA or IHMA. Consider these areas during annual fire restriction evaluations, and as appropriate, through site specific management.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD FIRE 8: Coordinate with Federal, State and local jurisdictions on fire and litter prevention programs to reduce human caused ignitions.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 9: Implement activities identified within the FIAT Assessments.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Dillon 2015 RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD FIRE 10: Complete Wildland Fire and Invasive Species Assessments (FIAT Assessments) as described within Appendix H and incorporate results into appropriate Fire Management Plans as they are completed. FIAT Assessments are interdisciplinary evaluations of the threats posed by wildfire and invasive species, as well as identification of focal and emphasis habitats/treatment opportunities for fuels management, fire management, and restoration. These FIAT Assessments identify focal and emphasis habitats and describe strategies for fuels management, suppression and restoration activities. Focal and Emphasis Habitats identified through the FIAT Assessment to further refine priority areas for treatments to reduce the threats posed by wildfire, invasive annual grass and conifer expansion.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD FIRE 11: As part of the FIAT Assessments incorporate a wildfire response time analysis focusing on response time to identified priority areas within PHMA and IHMA or on those fires that have the potential to impact PHMA and IHMA. Incorporate findings into Unit Initial Attack program that determines initial attack resources.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD FIRE 12: As part of the FIAT Assessment incorporate a water capacity analysis for suppression purposes, including potential private water sources. Utilized the analysis to ensure water availability for response to fire in or threatening PHMA and IHMA during initial attack.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD FIRE 13: During high fire danger conditions, stage initial attack and secure additional resources closer to priority areas identified in the FIAT Assessments, based on anticipated fires and weather conditions, with particular consideration of the West Owyhee, Southern and Desert Conservation Areas to ensure quicker response times in or near GRSG habitat after considerations and placement of resources to protect human life and property.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD FIRE 14: Utilize a full range of fire management strategies and tactics through strategic wildfire suppression planning consistent with appropriate management response and within acceptable risk levels, to achieve resource objectives for GRSG habitat consistent with land use plan direction. Utilizing both direct and indirect attack as appropriate to limit the overall amount of GRSG habitat burned. This can include suppressing fires in intact sagebrush habitats; limiting fire growth in GHMA when suppression resources are available or managing wildfire for resource benefit in areas of conifer (juniper) encroachment.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 16: Ensure close coordination with federal and state firefighters including the Rangeland Fire Protection Associations during suppression activities.	No change proposed.

Dillon 2015 RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD FIRE 17: Design and implement fuels treatments that will reduce the potential start and spread of unwanted wildfires and provide anchor points or control lines for the containment of wildfires during suppression activities with an emphasis on maintaining, protecting, and expanding sagebrush ecosystems and successfully rehabilitated areas and strategically and effectively reduce wildfire threats in the greatest area.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 18: Enhance (or maintain/retain) sagebrush canopy cover and community structure to match expected potential for the ecological site and consistent with GRSG habitat objectives unless fuels management objectives requires additional reduction in sagebrush cover to meet strategic protection of GRSG habitat. Closely evaluate the benefits of the fuel management treatments against the additional loss of sagebrush cover on the local landscape in the NEPA process.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 19: Apply appropriate seasonal restrictions for implementing vegetation and fuels management treatments according to the type of seasonal habitats present. Allow no treatments in known winter range unless the treatments are designed to strategically reduce wildfire risk around and/or in the winter range and will protect, maintain, increase, or enhance winter range habitat quality. Ensure chemical applications are utilized where they will assist in success of fuels treatments. Strategically place treatments on a landscape scale to prevent fire from spreading into PHMA or WUI.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 20: Develop a fuels continuity and management strategy to expand, enhance, maintain and protect GRSG habitat informed by the FIAT Assessments completed as described in Appendix H.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD FIRE 21: When developing the fuels management strategy as part of the FIAT Assessment described in Appendix H consider up-to-date fuels profiles; land use plan direction; current and potential habitat fragmentation; sagebrush and GRSG ecological factors; active vegetation management steps to provide critical breaks in fuel continuity where appropriate; incorporate a comparative risk analysis with regard to the risk of increased habitat fragmentation from a proposed action versus the risk of large scale fragmentation posed by wildfires if the action is not taken.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD FIRE 22: Fuel treatments will be designed through an interdisciplinary process to expand, enhance, maintain, and protect GRSG habitat which considers a full range of cost-effective fuel reduction techniques, including: chemical, biological (including grazing and targeted grazing), mechanical and prescribed fire treatments.	No change proposed.

Dillon 2015 RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD FIRE 23: Existing and proposed linear ROWs can be considered for use and maintenance as vegetated fuel breaks in appropriate areas (this activity may or may not be part of the ROW permit or the responsibility of the permit holder, in cases where this activity is considered part of mitigation for project design then it will be appropriately included as part of the ROW permit and the responsibility of the permit holder for development and maintenance).	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 24: Fuel breaks will incorporate existing vegetation treatments (seedings), rocky areas or other appropriate topography or features or be located adjacent to existing linear disturbance areas where appropriate. Fuel breaks should be placed in areas with the greatest likelihood of compartmentalizing a fire and/or to foster suppression options to protect existing intact habitat.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 25: Strategically pre-treat areas to reduce fine fuels consistent with areas and results identified within the Wildfire and Invasive Species Assessments.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD FIRE 26: Protect vegetation restoration and rehabilitation efforts/projects from subsequent fire events.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 27: Targeted grazing as a fuels treatment to adjust the vegetation conditions to reduce the potential start and spread of wildfires may be implemented within existing grazing authorizations if feasible such as through temporary non-renewable authorizations, or through contracts, agreements or other appropriate means separate from existing grazing authorizations and permits.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 28: Targeted grazing to achieve fuels management objectives should conform to the following criteria: a. Targeted grazing should be implemented strategically on the landscape, and directly involve the minimum footprint and grazing intensity required to meet fuels management objectives. b. Conform to the applicable Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (Idaho or Montana) at the assessment scale (pasture/watershed). c. Where feasible and applicable coordinate with the grazing permittee to strategically reduce fuels through livestock management within the Mandatory Terms and Conditions of the applicable grazing authorizations.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 30: Maintain effectiveness of fuels projects, including fuel breaks, to ensure long-term success, including persistence of seeded species and/or other treatment components while maintaining the integrity of adjacent vegetation.	No change proposed.

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MD FIRE 32: Utilize the findings and Restoration/Rehabilitation Strategy developed as part of the FIAT Assessment process described in Appendix H to determine if GRSG rehabilitation actions are needed, based on ecological potential, and direct emergency stabilization and rehabilitation (ESR) (BLM) actions after fire.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD FIRE 33: Incorporate GRSG Habitat Management Objectives into ESR/BAER plans based on site potential and in accordance with the Restoration/Rehabilitation Strategy developed as a result of the FIAT Assessments.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD FIRE 34: Provide adequate rest from livestock grazing to allow natural recovery of existing vegetation and successful establishment of seeded species within burned/ESR areas. All new seedlings of grasses and forbs should not be grazed until at least the end of the second growing season, and longer as needed to allow plants to mature and develop robust root systems which will stabilize the site, compete effectively against cheatgrass and other invasive annuals, and remain sustainable under long-term grazing management. Adjust other management activities, as appropriate, to meet ESR objectives.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 35: Adjust, as appropriate, livestock management on adjacent unburned areas to mitigate the effect of the burn on local GRSG populations.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 36: Following seedling establishment, modify grazing management practices if needed to achieve long-term vegetation and habitat objectives.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Lands and Realty	
Objectives LR 1: Effects of infrastructure projects, including siting, will be minimized using the best available science, updated as monitoring information on current infrastructure projects becomes available.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LR 5: Consistent with MD LR 3, MD LR 4, and MD RE 1, Rights-of-way for development of new or amended ROWs and land use authorizations (including permits and leases) in PHMA will only be considered when consistent with the Anthropogenic Disturbance Screening Criteria (MD SSS 29); Rights-of-way for development of new or amended ROWs and land use authorizations (including permits and leases) in IHMA can be considered consistent with the IHMA Anthropogenic Disturbance Development Criteria (MD SSS 30). GHMA: New ROW and land use authorizations can be considered.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Dillon 2015 RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD SSS 31 - Co-locating new infrastructure within existing ROWs and maintaining and upgrading ROWs is preferred over the creation of new ROWs or the construction of new facilities in all management area. Colocation for various activities is defined as: * Communication Sites – The installation of new equipment/facilities on or within or adjacent to existing authorized equipment/facilities or within a communication site boundary as designated in the Communication Site Plan. * Electrical Lines – Installation of new ROWs adjacent to current ROWs boundaries, not necessarily placed on the same power poles * Other Rights-of-Way – The installation of new ROWs within the existing footprint of an approved ROW boundary or adjacent to an approved ROW boundary. * Designated Corridors – The installation of new rights-of-way within the existing corridor or adjacent to the existing corridor.	No change proposed.

Dillon 2015 RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD LR 14: Lands classified as PHMA, IHMA, and GHMA for GRSG will be retained in federal management unless: (1) the agency can demonstrate that disposal of the lands, including land exchanges, will provide a net conservation gain to the GRSG or (2) the agency can demonstrate that the disposal, including land exchanges, of the lands will have no direct or indirect adverse impact on conservation of the GRSG. Land tenure adjustments will be subject to the following disposal, exchange, and acquisition criteria, which include retaining lands with GRSG habitat. Retention of areas with GRSG will reduce the likelihood of habitat conversion to agriculture, urbanization, or other uses that will remove sagebrush habitat and potentially impact sensitive plants. Criteria: - Acquire habitat within PHMA and IHMA, when possible (i.e. willing landowner), and retain ownership of habitat within all Areas, except if disposal will allow for additional or more contiguous federal ownership patterns. - Lands within PHMA, IHMA and GHMA will be retained unless disposal of those lands will increase the extent or provide for connectivity of PHMA, IHMA or GHMA. - Evaluate potential land exchanges containing historically low-quality GRSG habitat that may be too costly to restore in exchange for lands of higher quality habitat, lands that connect seasonal GRSG habitats or lands providing for threatened and endangered species. These potential exchanges should lead to an increase in the extent or continuity of or provide for improved connectivity of PHMA. Higher priority will be given to exchanges for those in-tact areas of sagebrush that will contribute to the expansion of sagebrush areas within PHMA currently in public ownership. Lower priority will be given to other lands that will promote enhancement in the PHMA and IHMA (i.e., areas with fragmented or less in-tact sagebrush). - Identify lands for acquisition that increase the extent of or provide for connectivity of PHMA.	No change proposed.

Dillon 2015 RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD LR 2: PHMA: Designate and manage PHMA as ROW avoidance areas, consistent with MD SSS 29 and subject to RDFs and buffers (Appendices B and C). IHMA: Designate and manage IHMA as ROW avoidance areas, consistent with MD SSS 30 and subject to RDFs and buffers. GHMA (Idaho and Montana): Designate and manage GHMA as open with proposals subject to RDFs and buffers. MD LR 12: PHMA (Idaho and Montana) and IHMA (Idaho), and GHMA (Montana only) are designated as avoidance areas for high voltage transmission line and large pipeline ROWs, except for Gateway West and Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Projects. All authorizations in these areas, other than the following identified projects, must comply with the conservation measures outlined in this proposed plan, including the RDFs and avoidance criteria presented in MD SSS 29 and MD SSS 30 of this document. The BLM is currently processing an application for Gateway West and Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Projects and the NEPA review for this project is well underway. Conservation measures for GRSg are being analyzed through the project's NEPA review process, which should achieve a net conservation benefit for the GRSg.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Industrial Solar, Wind, Nuclear, and Hydropower Development MD RE 1: PHMA: Designate and manage PHMA as exclusion areas for utility scale (20 MW) wind and solar testing and development, nuclear and hydropower energy development. IHMA: Designate and manage IHMA as avoidance areas for wind and solar testing and development, nuclear and hydropower development. GHMA (Idaho): Designate and manage GHMA as open for wind and solar testing and development and nuclear and hydropower development subject to RDFs and buffers. GHMA (Montana): Designate and manage GHMA as avoidance for wind and solar testing and development and nuclear and hydropower development.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LR 13: Consider the likelihood of development of not-yet-constructed surface disturbing activities – as defined in Table 2 of the Monitoring Framework (Appendix D) – under valid existing rights.	No change proposed.
MD LR 10: When a ROW grant expires and is not requested to be renewed, is relinquished, or terminated, the lease holder will be required to reclaim the site by removing overhead lines and other infrastructure and to eliminate avian predator nesting opportunities provided by anthropogenic development on public lands associated with the now void ROW grant (e.g., remove power line and communication facilities no longer in service).	No change proposed.

Dillon 2015 RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD LR 1: Existing designated corridors, including Section 368 Corridors, will remain Open in all habitat management areas (subject to the ongoing settlement agreement). Also see MD LR 10 and MD SSS 31	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LR 3: PHMA: Development of commercial service airports and facilities (as defined by FAA 2014 – publically owned airports that have at least 2,500 passenger boardings each calendar year and receive scheduled passenger service) will not be allowed within PHMA. IHMA and GHMA are Avoidance and Open respectively for these types of ROW applications as described in MD LR 2.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LR 4: PHMA: Development of new or expansion of existing landfills will not be allowed within PHMA. IHMA and GHMA are Avoidance and Open respectively for these types of ROW applications as described in MD LR 2.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LR 6: In PHMA, if a higher voltage transmission line is required adjacent to an existing line (i.e. the project is an incremental upgrade/capacity increase of existing development (i.e. power line capacity upgrade): · the existing transmission line must be removed and area rehabilitated within a specified amount of time after the new line is installed and energized; and · the new line must be constructed in the same alignment as the existing line unless an alternate route will benefit GRSG or GRSG habitat.	No change proposed.
MD LR 7: Process unauthorized use. If the unauthorized use is subsequently authorized, it will be authorized consistent with direction from this plan including RDFs and buffers. If the use is not subsequently authorized the site will be reclaimed by removing these unauthorized (trespass) features and rehabilitating the habitat.	No change proposed.
MD LR 8: Land use authorizations that are temporary (less than 3 years) in nature and are not otherwise excluded or restricted will be subject to seasonal or timing restrictions (Appendix C) and mitigation requirements regarding habitat loss as needed.	No change proposed.
MD LR 9: New ROW applications for water facilities (ditches, canals, pipelines), or amendments to existing water facilities which include additional structures to improve fish passage or benefits to fisheries (new diversions, fish screens) will be allowed on a case-by-case basis subject to RDFs to reduce impacts on GRSG habitat and mitigation requirements regarding GRSG habitat loss as needed.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD LR 11: As opportunities and priorities indicate work with existing ROW holders to retrofit existing towers and structures consistent with RDFs described in Appendix C.	No change proposed.

Dillon 2015 RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions: Fluid Mineral Resources	
MD MR 20: BLM owns surface – non-federal mineral estate owner: Where the federal government owns the surface and the mineral estate is in non-federal ownership in PHMA, IHMA, and GHMA, apply appropriate surface use COAs, stipulations, and mineral RDFs through ROW grants or other surface management instruments, to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities, in coordination with the mineral estate owner/lessee.	No change proposed.
MD MR 19: BLM Owns Mineral Estate – non-federal surface owner: Where the federal government owns the mineral estate in PHMA, IHMA, and GHMA, and the surface is in non-federal ownership, apply the same stipulations, COAs, and/or conservation measures and RDFs applied if the mineral estate is developed on BLM-administered lands in that management area, to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities, and in coordination with the landowner.	No change proposed.
<i>Fluid Minerals</i> Objective MR 1: Priority will be given to leasing and development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, outside of PHMA, IHMA, and GHMA. When analyzing leasing and authorizing development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, in PHMA, IHMA, and GHMA, and subject to applicable stipulations for the conservation of GRSG, priority will be given to development in non-habitat areas first and then in the least suitable habitat for GRSG. The implementation of these priorities will be subject to valid existing rights and any applicable law or regulation, including, but not limited to, 30 USC 226(p) and 43 CFR 3162.3-1(h).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD MR 1: Idaho and Montana: Areas within SFA will be open to fluid mineral leasing and development and geophysical exploration subject to NSO without waiver, exception, or modification. Areas within PHMA (outside SFA) and IHMA will be open to mineral leasing and development and geophysical exploration subject to NSO with a limited exception (MD MR 3). GHMA will be open to mineral leasing and development and geophysical exploration subject to CSU which includes buffers and standard stipulations.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.

Dillon 2015 RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD MR 3: PHMA and IHMA: No waivers or modifications to a fluid mineral lease NSO stipulation will be granted. The Authorized Officer may grant an exception to a fluid mineral lease NSO stipulation only where the proposed action: i. Will not have direct, indirect, or cumulative effects on GRSG or its habitat; or, ii. Is proposed to be undertaken as an alternative to a similar action occurring on a nearby parcel, and will provide a clear conservation gain to GRSG. Exceptions based on conservation gain (ii) may only be considered in (a) PHMA of mixed ownership where federal minerals underlie less than fifty percent of the total surface, or (b) areas of the public lands where the proposed exception is an alternative to an action occurring on a nearby parcel subject to a valid Federal fluid mineral lease existing as of the date of this RMP amendment. Exceptions based on conservation gain must also include measures, such as enforceable institutional controls and buffers, sufficient to allow the BLM to conclude that such benefits will endure for the duration of the proposed action's impacts. Any exceptions to this lease stipulation may be approved by the Authorized Officer only with the concurrence of the State Director. The Authorized Officer may not grant an exception unless the applicable state wildlife agency, the USFWS, and the BLM unanimously find that the proposed action satisfies (i) or (ii). Such finding shall initially be made by a team of one field biologist or other GRSG expert from each respective agency. In the event the initial finding is not unanimous, the finding may be elevated to the appropriate BLM State Director, USFWS State Ecological Services Director, and state wildlife agency head for final resolution. In the event their finding is not unanimous, the exception will not be granted. Approved exceptions will be made publically available at least quarterly.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Objective MR 2: Where a proposed fluid mineral development project on an existing lease can adversely affect GRSG populations or habitat, the BLM will work with the lessees, operators, or other project proponents to avoid, minimize and apply compensatory mitigation to the extent compatible with lessees' rights to drill and produce fluid mineral resources. The BLM will work with the lessee, operator, or project proponent in developing an APD or Geothermal Drilling Permit (GDP) for the lease to avoid, minimize, and apply compensatory mitigation to impacts on GRSG or its habitat and will ensure that the best information about the GRSG and its habitat informs and helps to guide development of such Federal leases.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Dillon 2015 RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD MR 4: Incorporate required design features and best management practices appropriate to the management area as COAs when post leasing activity is proposed into any post-lease authorizations.	No change proposed.
MD MR 5: In Montana, prior to leasing conduct a Master Leasing Plan process when all four of the following criteria are met: · A substantial portion of the area to be analyzed in the MLP is not currently leased. · There is a majority Federal mineral interest. · The oil and gas industry has expressed a specific interest in leasing, and there is a moderate or high potential for oil and gas confirmed by the discovery of oil and gas in the general area. · Additional analysis or information is needed to address likely resource or cumulative impacts if oil and gas development were to occur where there are: – multiple-use or natural/cultural resource conflicts; – impacts on air quality; – impacts on the resources or values of any unit of the National Park System, national wildlife refuge, or National Forest wilderness area, as determined after consultation or coordination with the NPS, the USFWS, or the Forest Service; or – impacts on other specially designated areas. – analyzing likely development scenarios and varying mitigation levels.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD MR 7: Encourage unitization when deemed necessary for proper development and operation of an area (with strong oversight and monitoring). The unitization must be designed in a manner to minimize adverse impacts on GRSG according to the Federal Lease Form, 3100-11, Sections 4 and 6.	No change proposed.
MD MR 8: Issue Written Orders of the Authorized Officer (43 CFR 3161.2) requiring reasonable protective measures consistent with the lease terms where necessary to avoid or minimize impacts on GRSG populations or habitat.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Solid Leasable Minerals	
MD MR 15: PHMA are closed to leasing. IHMA and GHMA: Areas within Known Phosphate Leasing Areas (KPLAs) will remain open to leasing subject to standard stipulations. IHMA areas outside of KPLAs are open to prospecting and subsequent leasing provided the Anthropogenic Disturbance Development Criteria (MD SSS 30) and the anthropogenic disturbance cap (MD SSS 27) can be met. RDFs and buffers shall be applied to prospecting permits. GHMA: Lands outside KPLAs are available for prospecting and subsequent leasing and initial mine development subject to RDFs, buffers, and standard stipulations.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.

Dillon 2015 RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD MR 16: Require seasonal and daily timing restrictions (Appendix C) in undeveloped nonenergy mineral leases when exploration activities or initial mine development is proposed (e.g. exploration drilling, timber removal, shrub clearing, etc.) as COAs.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
MD MR 17: Include RDFs as COAs to mine plans in undeveloped non-energy mineral leases for exploration activities or initial mine development.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
MD MR 18: At the time an application for a new coal lease or lease modification is submitted to the BLM, the BLM will determine whether the lease application area is "unsuitable" for all or certain coal mining methods pursuant to 43 CFR 3461.5. PHMA is essential habitat for maintaining GRSG for purposes of the suitability criteria set forth at 43 CFR 3461.5(o)(1).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Decisions: Locatable Materials	
MD MR 10: Recommend SFA for withdrawal from the General Mining Act of 1872, as amended, subject to valid existing rights.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD MR 9: Apply reasonable and appropriate RDFs to locatable minerals, to the extent consistent with applicable law to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of GRSG habitat when a Plan of Operations is submitted for BLM approval, in accordance with 43 CFR 3809.411(d)(2).	Potential change under Alternative 3.
Management Decisions: Mineral Materials	
MD MR 11: PHMA: All PHMA will be closed to mineral materials development. However, existing freeuse permits and the expansion of existing free use permits may be considered only if the following criteria are met: · the project area disturbance cap is not exceeded within a BSU; · the activity is subject to the provisions set forth in the mitigation framework [Appendix F]; · all applicable required design features are applied; and · the activity is permissible under the Idaho exception and development criteria (MD SSS 29 and MD SSS 30) – IHMA: All IHMA will be open to mineral materials development, consistent with the Idaho Anthropogenic Disturbance Criteria (MD SSS 30), and subject to RDFs, and buffers. Sales from existing community pits within IHMA will be subject to seasonal timing restrictions (Appendix C). – GHMA: All GHMA will be open to mineral materials development, subject to RDFs and buffers. Sales from existing community pits within GHMA will be subject to seasonal timing restrictions (Appendix C).	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.

Dillon 2015 RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD MR 14: Montana: PHMA are closed to new mineral material sales. However, these areas remain “open” to free use permits and the expansion of existing active pits, only if the following criteria are met: · the activity is within the BSU and project area disturbance cap; · the activity is subject to the provisions set forth in the mitigation framework [Appendix F]; · all applicable required design features are applied; and · the activity is permissible under the Montana screening criteria (MD SSS 30) Appendix J.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
MD MR 12: Restore salable mineral pits no longer in use to meet GRSG habitat management objectives.	No change proposed.
MD MR 13: Require reclamation bonding that will require restoration of GRSG habitat on new site authorizations for mineral material pits in IHMA (this will not apply to free use permits issued to a government entity such as a county road district, but will apply to non-profit entities).	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
Management Decisions: Recreation	
REC-2: In PHMA and IHMA, do not construct new recreation facilities (e.g., campgrounds, trails, trailheads, staging areas) unless the development will have a net conservation gain to GRSG habitat (such as concentrating recreation, diverting use away from critical areas, etc.), or unless the development is required for visitor health and safety or resource protection.	No change proposed.
REC-1: Manage existing recreation uses and sites to minimize adverse effects on GRSG or their habitat through incorporation of RDFs, buffers and seasonal restrictions.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management	
MD TTM 3: Develop Travel Management Plans for each Field Office as described in the BLM Travel Management Handbook 8342.1 and according to the travel management planning guidelines (Appendix L of FEIS).	No change proposed.

Dillon 2015 RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD TTM 4: During subsequent travel management planning design and designate a travel system to minimize adverse effects on GRS. Locate areas and trails to minimize disturbance of GRS and/or to have a neutral or positive effect on GRS habitat and populations. Give special attention to protect endangered or threatened species and their habitats. Allow for route upgrade, closure of existing routes, timing restrictions, seasonal closures, and creation of new routes to help protect habitat and meet user group needs, thereby reducing the potential for pioneering unauthorized routes. The emphasis of the comprehensive travel and transportation planning within PHMA will be placed on having a neutral or positive effect on GRS habitat. Individual route designations will occur during subsequent travel management planning efforts.	No change proposed.
MD TTM 2: In PHMA, IHMA, and GHMA, temporary closures will be considered in accordance with 43 CFR subpart 8364 (Closures and Restrictions); 43 CFR subpart 8351 (Designated National Area); 43 CFR subpart 6302 (Use of Wilderness Areas, Prohibited Acts, and Penalties); 43 CFR subpart 8341 (Conditions of Use) and other applicable law and policy.	No change proposed.
MD TTM 5: Conduct road construction, upgrades, and maintenance activities to avoid disturbance during the lekking season – see Appendix C.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Livestock Grazing	
MD LG 16: The NEPA analysis for renewals and modifications of livestock grazing permits/leases that include lands within SFA and PHMA will include specific management thresholds, based on GRS Habitat Objectives Table, Land Health Standards (43 CFR 4180.2) and ecological site potential, and one or more defined responses that will allow the authorizing officer to make adjustments to livestock grazing that have already been subjected to NEPA analysis.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 1: Maintain existing areas designated as available or unavailable for livestock grazing. Existing active AUMs for livestock grazing within the planning area will not be changed at the broad scale, though the number of AUMs available on an allotment may be adjusted based on site-specific conditions to meet management objectives during term permit renewals, AMP development, or other appropriate implementation planning. Additional temporary adjustments can be made annually to livestock numbers, the number of AUMs, and season of use in accordance with applicable regulations.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

Dillon 2015 RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD LG 4: PHMA & IHMA: During the land health assessment process, identify the type(s) of seasonal habitat the assessed areas are capable of supporting. Utilize the habitat assessment framework, (Stiver et al. 2015) or other BLM approved methodology, in accordance with current policy and guidance to determine whether vegetation structure, condition and composition are meeting GRSG habitat objectives including riparian and lentic areas (Objective SSS 2; Table 2-2). Use appropriate Ecological Site Descriptions, reference sheets and state and transition models to inform desired habitat conditions and Expected responses to management changes for the land unit being assessed.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 2: Prioritize BLM land health assessments and processing of BLM grazing permits consistent with management area prioritization (MD SSS 4), unless other higher priority considerations exist (MD LG 15) or other factors such as threatened, endangered and proposed species habitat that livestock grazing can affect. Where possible, conduct land health assessments at the watershed, or other meaningful landscape-scale.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 15: The BLM will prioritize (1) the review of grazing permits/leases, in particular to determine if modification is necessary prior to renewal, and (2) the processing of grazing permits/leases in Sagebrush Focal Areas (SFA) followed by PHMA outside of the SFA. In setting workload priorities, precedence will be given to existing permits/leases in these areas not meeting Land Health Standards, with focus on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows. Management and conservation action prioritization will occur at the Conservation Area (CA) scale and be based on GRSG population and habitat trends: Focusing management and conservation actions first in SFA followed by areas of PHMA outside SFA. The BLM may use other criteria for prioritization to respond to urgent natural resource concerns (e.g., fire) and legal obligations.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 17: Allotments within SFA, followed by those within PHMA, and focusing on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows, will be prioritized for field checks to help ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the grazing permits. Field checks can include monitoring for actual use, utilization, and use supervision. Management and conservation action prioritization will occur at the Conservation Area (CA) scale and be based on GRSG population and habitat trends: Focusing management and conservation actions first in SFA followed by areas of PHMA outside SFA.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Dillon 2015 RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD LG 12: During the land health assessment and grazing permit renewal process, evaluate existing livestock management range improvements with respect to their effect on GRS habitat. Consider removal of projects that are not needed for effective livestock management, are no longer in working condition, and/or negatively affect GRS habitat, with the exception of functional projects needed for management of habitat for other threatened, endangered or proposed species or other sensitive resources.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 13: Prioritize removal, modification or marking of fences or other structures in areas of high collision risk following appropriate cooperation, consultation and coordination to reduce the incidence of GRS mortality due to fence strikes (Stevens et al. 2012).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 9: Evaluate the locations where salt/supplements are placed, coordinate salt/supplements placement to reduce impacts on GRS habitat (e.g., existing disturbed areas).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 11: Design any new structural range improvements, following appropriate cooperation, consultation and coordination, to minimize and/or mitigate impacts on GRS habitat. Any new structural range improvements should be placed along existing disturbance corridors or in unsuitable habitat, to the extent practical, and are subject to RDFs (Appendix C). Structural range improvement in this context, include, but are not limited to: fences, exclosures, corrals or other livestock handling structures; pipelines, troughs, storage tanks (including moveable tanks used in livestock water hauling), windmills, ponds/reservoirs, solar panels and spring developments.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 3: Where opportunities exist, coordinate with other land managers to encourage livestock operations that utilize mixed federal, private and/or state land to be managed at the landscape scale to benefit GRS and their habitat across land ownerships.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Dillon 2015 RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD LG 6: When livestock management practices are determined to not be compatible with meeting or making progress towards achievable habitat objectives following appropriate consultation, cooperation and coordination, implement changes in grazing management through grazing authorization modifications, or allotment management plan implementation. Potential modifications include, but are not limited to, changes in: • Season or timing of use; • Numbers of livestock; • Distribution of livestock use; • Duration and/or level of use; • Kind of livestock (e.g., cattle, sheep, horses, or goats) (Briske et al. 2011); and • Grazing schedules (including rest or deferment). *Not in Priority Order	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 14: In response to weather conditions (i.e. drought) adjust grazing management (i.e., delay turnout, adjust pasture rotations, adjust the amount and/or duration of grazing) as appropriate to provide for adequate food and cover for GRSG.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 18: At the time a permittee or lessee voluntarily relinquishes a permit or lease, the BLM will consider whether the public lands where that permitted use was authorized should remain available for livestock grazing or be used for other resource management objectives, such as reserve common allotments or fire breaks. This does not apply to or impact grazing preference transfers, which are addressed in 43 CFR 41.10.2-3.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 7: Where opportunities exist, establish forage reserves to facilitate restoration and rehabilitation efforts in GRSG habitat areas. A forage reserve is an area that is set aside for use as needed by various permittees who might be displaced by wildfire, ESR, restoration efforts, etc. rather than having a term permit issued for grazing like a regular allotment.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 5: When modifying grazing management, analyze indirect impacts on habitat, including changes in fuel loading and wildfire behavior.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 8: PHMA & IHMA - Where practical, design pasture rotations to utilize non-native perennial grass seedings and/or annual grasslands, during GRSG nesting season annually or periodically.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 10: Incorporate RDFs into Terms and Conditions for crossing permits to limit disturbance of occupied leks when trailing livestock across BLM administered lands in the spring. Work with permittees in locating over-nighting, watering and bedding locations to minimize impacts on seasonal habitats.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Dillon 2015 RMP Revision	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions: Wild Horse and Burros	
WHB-1: Manage herd management areas (HMAs) in GRSG habitat within established AML ranges to achieve and maintain GRSG habitat objectives (Table 2-2).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
WHB-2: Complete rangeland health assessments for HMAs containing GRSG habitat using an interdisciplinary team of specialists (e.g. range, wildlife, and riparian). The priorities for conducting assessments are: 1) HMAs Containing SFA; 2) HMAs containing PHMA; 3) HMAs containing IHMA; 4) HMAs containing GHMA; 5) HMAs containing sagebrush habitat outside of PHMA, IHMA, and GHMA mapped habitat; 6) HMAs without GRSG Habitat.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
WHB-3: Prioritize gathers and population growth suppression techniques in HMAs in GRSG habitat, unless removals are necessary in other areas to address higher priority environmental issues, including herd health impacts. Place higher priority on Herd Areas not allocated as HMAs and occupied by wild horses and burros in SFA followed by PHMA.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
WHB-4: In SFA and PHMA outside of SFA, assess and adjust AMLs through the NEPA process within HMAs when wild horses or burros are identified as a significant causal factor in not meeting land health standards, even if current AML is not being exceeded.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
WHB-5: In SFA and PHMA outside of SFA, monitor the effects of wild horse and burro use in relation to GRSG seasonal habitat objectives on an annual basis to help determine future management actions.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
WHB-6: Develop or amend herd management area plans (HMAPs) to incorporate GRSG habitat objectives and management considerations for all HMAs within GRSG habitat, with emphasis placed on SFA and other PHMA.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
WHB-7: Consider removals or exclusion of wild horse and burros during or immediately following emergency situations (such as fire, floods, and drought) to facilitate meeting GRSG habitat objectives where HMAs overlap with GRSG habitat.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
WHB-8: When conducting NEPA analysis for wild horse and burro management activities, water developments, or other rangeland improvements for wild horses, address the direct and indirect impacts on GRSG populations and habitat. Implement any water developments or rangeland improvements using the criteria identified for domestic livestock.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
WHB-9: Coordinate with professionals from other federal and state agencies, researchers at universities, and others to utilize and evaluate new management tools (e.g., population growth suppression, inventory techniques, and telemetry) for implementing the wild horse and burro program.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Table 2: Dillon Habitat Objectives for GRSG

Attribute	Indicator	Desired Conditions	Reference
LEK HABITAT (Seasonal Use Period March 1 – May 15) I			
Lek Security	Proximity of trees	Trees (i.e., in Idaho mainly juniper, conifers, and does not include old-growth juniper, pinyon pine and mountain mahogany; in Montana mainly Douglas-fir) absent or uncommon on shrub/grassland ecological sites within 1.86 miles (3 km) of occupied leks.	Baruch-Mordo et al. 2013 Stiver et al. 2015
	Proximity of sagebrush to leks	Adjacent protective sagebrush cover within 328 ft. (100 m) of an occupied lek	Stiver et al. 2015
NESTING/EARLY BROOD REARING (Seasonal Use Period May 1 – June 30) I			
Cover and Food	Sagebrush cover ²	15-25%	Connelly et al. 2000 Connelly et al. 2003 Hagen et al. 2007
	Sagebrush height Arid sites ³ Mesic sites ⁴	12-31 inches (30-80cm) 16-31 inches (40-80cm)	Connelly et al. 2000
	Predominant sagebrush shape	Predominantly spreading shape ⁵	Stiver et al. 2015
	Perennial grass cover (such as native bunchgrasses) ² Arid sites ³ Mesic sites ⁴	>10% >15%	Connelly et al. 2000 Stiver et al. 2015
	Perennial grass (and forb) height (includes residual grasses)	≥ 7 inches	Connelly et al. 2000 Connelly et al. 2003 Hagen et al. 2007 Stiver et al. 2015
	Perennial forb cover ² Arid sites ³ Mesic sites ⁴	>5% >10%	Connelly et al. 2000
	Perennial forb availability	Preferred forbs are common with several species present ⁶	Stiver et al. 2015
LATE BROOD-REARING/SUMMER (July-October) I Late brood-rearing areas, such as riparia			
Cover and Food	Sagebrush cover ²	Uplands 10-25% Riparian/Meadow: Sagebrush cover within 100 m	Connelly et al. 2000
	Sagebrush height	16 to 32 inches (40-80cm)	Connelly et al. 2000
	Perennial grass and forb cover ²	>15%	
	Upland and riparian perennial forb availability ²	Preferred forbs are common with appropriate numbers of species present, ⁶	Stiver et al. 2015
	Riparian and/or meadow habitat condition	Proper Functioning Condition	Stiver et al. 2015
WINTER November-March I (Apply to areas of known or likely winter-use)			
Cover and Food	Sagebrush cover and height above snow,	Sagebrush is at least 10 inches (25 cm) above snow and ≥10% cover ¹⁶	Connelly et al. 2000 Stiver et al. 2015

Notes:

¹ Seasonal dates can be adjusted by local unit according to geographic region.² Since plant species and/or life forms may overlap, total vegetative cover, inclusive of shrubs, forbs and grasses may exceed 100%.

³ Arid corresponds to the 10 – 12 inch precipitation zone; *Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis* is a common big sagebrush subspecies for this type site (Stiver et al. 2015).

⁴ Mesic corresponds to the >12 inch precipitation zone; *Artemisia tridentata vaseyana* is a common big sagebrush sub-species for this type site (Stiver et al. 2015).

⁵ Collectively the indicators for sagebrush (cover, height, and shape), perennial grass and perennial forb (cover, height and/or availability) represent the desired condition range for nesting/early brood rearing habitat characteristics, consistent with the breeding habitat suitability matrix identified in Stiver et al. 2015. Sagebrush plants that are more tree or columnar-shaped provide less protective cover near the ground than sagebrush plants with a spreading shape (Stiver et al. 2015). Some sagebrush plants are naturally columnar (e.g., Great Basin big sagebrush), and a natural part of the plant community. However, a predominance of columnar shape arising from animal impacts may warrant management investigation or adjustments at site specific scales.

⁶ Preferred forbs are listed in Stiver et al. 2015. Overall total forb cover may be greater than that of preferred forb cover since not all forb species are listed as preferred.

¹⁵ Some late brood habitat occurs at higher elevations outside of mapped nesting habitat and some is embedded within nesting landscapes especially areas such as wet meadows, riparian areas, springs and seeps.

¹⁶ Winter habitat metrics are a guideline but snow depths and habitat availability may vary widely depending on winter severity, topography and elevation.

2.5.2 Relevant Appendices

The following table shows which appendices from the 2015 plan have management direction that may change through this RMP amendment. The appendices can be found on [the Idaho and Southwestern Montana GRSG ePlanning website](#).

ARMPA Appendix Name	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
A: Approved RMP Amendment Maps	Yes
B: Buffers	Yes
C: Required Design Features	Yes
D: Monitoring Framework	Yes
E: Anthropogenic Disturbance and Adaptive Management	Yes
F: Greater Sage-Grouse - Mitigation	Yes
G: Fluid Mineral Lease Stipulations, Waivers, Modifications, and Exceptions	Yes
H: Fire and Invasives Assessment Tool (FIAT)	Yes
I: US Fish and Wildlife Service Concurrence Letter	No
J: Montana Action Screen and Mitigation Process	Yes

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Appendix 2.6

HiLine RMP

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2.6 HiLINE RMP

This appendix presents the approved RMP revision language from the record of decision for the HiLine RMP that relate to GRSG management. The table below notes which goals, objectives, appendices, and management decisions/actions have a potential to change as a result of the current planning effort and if so, under which alternatives changes are being considered. Note that any references to tables and appendices are to those applicable RMP appendices that are listed in **Section 2.6.2** of this appendix.

2.6.1 Existing GRSG RMP Management – HiLine RMP

Table 1. Summary of Goals, Objectives, and Management Actions in HiLine RMP

HiLine RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions: Vegetation Communities	
Vegetation Objective 4: In all SFA and PHMA, the desired condition is to maintain all lands ecologically capable of producing sagebrush (such as big sagebrush) (but no less than 70%) with a minimum of 15% sagebrush cover or as consistent with specific ecological site conditions. The attributes necessary to sustain these habitats are described in Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health (BLM Tech Ref 1734-6).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
(Same as Vegetation MD-5): Conifers encroaching into sagebrush habitats will be removed, in a manner that considers tribal cultural values. Treatments will be prioritized closest to occupied sage-grouse habitats and near occupied leks, and where juniper encroachment is phase 1 or phase 2. Use of site-specific analysis and principles like those included in the Fire and Invasives Assessment Tool (FIAT) report (Chambers, et al. 2014) and other ongoing modeling efforts to address conifer encroachment will help refine the location for specific priority areas to be treated.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
(Same as Vegetation MD-3): The BLM will consult with MFWP and seek concurrence regarding the anticipated benefits and/or impacts of any vegetation treatments that may impact wildlife habitat including priority sage-grouse habitat.	No change proposed.
(Same as Vegetation MD-10): The BLM will use land treatments to achieve and maintain fire regimes, and watershed, grazing management, and wildlife objectives. Within the Greater Sage-Grouse PHMA and the Grassland Bird/Greater Sage-Grouse PHMA, treatments that conserve, enhance or restore Greater Sage-Grouse habitat will be allowed as well as treatments that benefit other resources and do not adversely affect sage-grouse or their habitat.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
(Same as Wildlife MD-35): Sagebrush habitats will be managed so that mid-scale (i.e. landscape level) shrub cover should include a mix of height classes with herbaceous understory adequate for meeting Greater Sage-Grouse requirements as well as habitat requirements for other sage-associated species such as mule deer and pronghorn.	No change proposed.

HiLine RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD-1: Quantifiable vegetation objectives for sage-grouse habitat are presented in Table 2.3-2. The actions needed to meet or progress toward meeting these objectives will be incorporated into the respective AMPs or livestock grazing permits as appropriate.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Decisions: Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Resources	
Goal SSS-1: Maintain and/or increase GRSG abundance and distribution by conserving, enhancing, or restoring the sagebrush ecosystem upon which populations depend, in cooperation with other conservation partners.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
(Same as Wildlife MD-39): The BLM will emphasize restoration and rehabilitation of sagebrush in areas that are capable of, but no longer support sagebrush to contribute to the distribution and connectivity of habitat patches.	No change proposed.
(Same as Wildlife MD-40): Greater Sage-Grouse habitats associated with silver sagebrush north of the Milk River will be enhanced to improve habitat conditions for nesting and brood rearing. Specific management actions will be derived from the results of ongoing research and best available science.	No change proposed.
Development in Highly Important Landscapes (Same as Wildlife MD-24): The BLM will designate SFA as shown in Figure 2.3-1 (927,074 acres). All BLM-administered lands within the SFA boundary will be managed as PHMA with the following additional management: 1) Recommended for withdrawal from the General Mining Act of 1872, subject to valid existing rights. 2) Managed as NSO, without WEMs, for fluid mineral leasing. 3) Prioritized for vegetation management and conservation actions in these areas, including, but not limited to land health assessments, review of livestock grazing permits/leases, and habitat restoration (see specific management sections).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
(Same as Wildlife MD-18): Fragmentation of large intact blocks of important wildlife habitat will be minimized, particularly in PHMA for Greater Sage-Grouse and grassland birds.	No change proposed.
Application of Lek Buffers (Same as Wildlife MD-23): In undertaking BLM management actions, and consistent with valid and existing rights and applicable law in authorizing third-party actions, the BLM will apply the lek buffer-distances identified in the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Report Conservation Buffer Distance Estimates for Greater Sage-Grouse – A Review (Open File Report 2014-1239) in accordance with Appendix B.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

HiLine RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions: Habitat Objectives [Original language updated through plan maintenance action in 2018] The habitat objectives for GRSG (Table 2.3-2) is a list of indicators, characteristics, and values that describe GRSG seasonal habitat use areas. The BLM used indicator values derived from a synthesis of local and regional GRSG habitat research and data to describe the typical vegetation communities that sage-grouse select. While the habitat objectives are not attainable on every site or every acre within designated GRSG habitat management areas, the values reflect a range of habitat conditions that generally lead to greater survival of individuals within a population. When permitting land use activities, BLM should consider the ecological site potential within designated habitat management areas to validate the habitat conditions achievable for a specific site. The seasonal habitat descriptions in Table 2.3-2 vary across the range of sage-grouse, within a subregion, and between sites. They are not land health standards but are quantitative measures that inform the Special Status Species Habitat Land Health Standard for sage-grouse. These measurable values reflect ecological potential, and may be adjusted based on local factors influencing sage-grouse habitat selection. Local data or recent science may indicate that sage-grouse select for vegetation structure and composition in seasonal habitats not characterized by the values in the habitat objectives table. In these cases, it may be appropriate to adjust the values. Habitat objectives should be evaluated in the context of annual variability in ecological conditions and should not be used singly to determine habitat suitability for sage-grouse. They may be used to demonstrate trends over time, during plan evaluations for effectiveness of sage-grouse conservation, or when identify limiting habitat characteristics for a given area. The indicators, characteristics, values and desired seasonal habitat conditions in the GRSG Plan Habitat Objectives Table are meant to inform the wildlife habitat component of the Land Health Standards evaluation process (LHS, 43 CFR 4180.2), but do not replace rangeland health assessments. Results from the LHS evaluation should be used to support BLM in land use authorization processes and during development of objectives for management actions such as vegetation treatments. BLM land use authorizations will contain terms and conditions regarding the actions needed to achieve or make progress toward achieving habitat objectives and land health standards. The Habitat Objectives Tables are to be used: • To assess habitat suitability for sage-grouse following the BLM policy on sage-grouse habitat assessments • To evaluate land use plan effectiveness for sage-grouse conservation, and	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

HiLine RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
As a basis to develop measurable project objectives for actions in BLM-designated GRSG Habitat Management areas when considered alongside land health standards, ecological potential and local information. References: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. 2001. Rangeland health standards handbook H-4180-1. https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/uploads/Media_Library_BLM_Policy_h4180-1.pdf	(See above.)
(Same as Wildlife MD-38): Greater Sage-Grouse habitat suitability determinations will be based upon existing guidelines modified with data from recent habitat inventories and assessments in the planning area. Relevant range-wide research findings will also be included in habitat suitability determinations.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Disturbance	
Wildlife Objective 7: Protect priority Greater Sage-Grouse habitats from anthropogenic disturbances that would reduce distribution or abundance of sage-grouse.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Disturbance: (Same as Wildlife MD-25 & MD-26) The Montana/Dakotas BLM will use a 3% disturbance cap at the BSU and project scale, until the State strategy, similar to Wyoming's Core Strategy of 5% for all lands and all disturbances, is fully implemented. The density calculation (an average of 1 facility per 640 acres) applies to energy and mining facilities. The disturbance cap will not be applied to foreclose development of locatable minerals on unpatented claims located under the General Mining Act of 1872; the disturbance from locatable mining will be accounted for in determining the percent disturbance and whether the cap has been exceeded. -If the 3% anthropogenic disturbance cap is exceeded on lands (regardless of landownership) or if anthropogenic disturbance and habitat loss associated with conversion to agricultural tillage or fire exceed 5% within a project analysis area, then no further discrete anthropogenic disturbances (subject to applicable laws and regulations, such as the General Mining Act of 1872, valid existing rights, etc.) will be permitted by the BLM within a project analysis area until the disturbance has been reduced to less than the cap. Within existing designated utility corridors, the 3% disturbance cap may be exceeded at the project scale if the site-specific NEPA analysis indicates that a net conservation gain to the species will be achieved. This exception is limited to projects which fulfill the use for which the corridors were designated (ex., transmission lines, pipelines) and the designated width of a corridor will not be exceeded as a result of any project co-location. -If the BLM determines that the State of Montana has adopted a Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Program that contains comparable components to those found in the State of Wyoming's Core Area Strategy including an all lands approach for calculating anthropogenic disturbances, a clear methodology for measuring the density	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

HiLine RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
of operations, and a fully operational density disturbance calculation tool, the 3% disturbance cap will be converted to a 5% cap for all sources of habitat alteration within a project analysis area. [Management action clarified in 2018 to reflect State of Montana process, under DOI-BLM-MT-2018-0005-CX. RMP Maintenance Action Language: This maintenance action is to clarify that the BLM has determined that the State's all lands approach to analyzing disturbance is operational and effective. Therefore, the BLM will adopt and implement the State's approach as identified in Attachments D (Stipulations for Uses and Activities) and H (definitions) of Montana Executive Order 12-2015.]	(See above.)
Mitigation: (MD-6) Mitigation measures for all resources are included in Appendices H and I. The BLM may add additional mitigation measures as deemed necessary by further environmental analysis and as developed through consultation with other federal, state, and local regulatory and resource agencies. In all sage-grouse habitat, in undertaking BLM management actions, and, consistent with valid existing rights and applicable law, in authorizing third-party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation, the BLM will require and ensure mitigation that provides a net conservation gain to the species including accounting for any uncertainty associated with the effectiveness of such mitigation. This will be achieved by avoiding, minimizing, and compensating for impacts by applying beneficial mitigation actions.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Adaptive Management Strategy: (MD-5) Adaptive Management: Follow the adaptive management strategy outlined in Appendix J.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Decisions: Wildland Fire Ecology and Management	
Same as MD-11 (Fire): The BLM will protect sensitive status species habitat (such as Greater Sage-Grouse habitat) during suppression and prescribed fire activities as described in this document and consistent with the Secretarial Order on Rangeland Fire and BLM Policy. Fire management-related activities, including prescribed fire, should preserve or enhance the habitat quality for Greater Sage-Grouse and other sensitive status species, especially in priority habitat areas. Where applicable, the BLM will use BMPs (Appendix H) to design fuels treatment objectives to protect existing sagebrush ecosystems, modify fire behavior, restore native plants, and create landscape patterns which benefit sage-grouse habitat (Appendix I). The use of heavy equipment during wildfire suppression and rehabilitation is allowable in sage-grouse habitat although cross-country travel should be limited through these areas. Wildfire suppression facilities shall be located to the extent possible in areas that minimize disturbance to high quality sage-grouse habitat.	No change proposed.

HiLine RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Same as MD-12 (Fire): If prescribed fire is used in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan will address: *why alternative techniques were not selected as viable options; *how Greater Sage-Grouse goals and objectives would be met by its use; *how the COT Report objectives would be addressed and met; *a risk assessment to address how potential threats to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat would be minimized.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Same as MD-13 (fire): Prescribed fire as a vegetation or fuels treatment shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Prescribed fire could be used to meet specific fuels objectives that would protect Greater Sage-Grouse habitat in PHMA (e.g., creation of fuel breaks that would disrupt the fuel continuity across the landscape in stands where annual invasive grasses are a minor component in the understory, burning slash piles from conifer reduction treatments, used as a component with other treatment methods to combat annual grasses and restore native plant communities).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Same as MD-14 (fire): Prescribed fire in known winter range shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Any prescribed fire in winter habitat would need to be designed to strategically reduce wildfire risk around and/or in the winter range and designed to protect winter range habitat quality.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Same as Wildlife MD-43h: If prescribed fire is to be used for vegetation treatments, the burn plan will clearly indicate how COT objectives will be addressed and met by its use, and why alternative techniques were not selected.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Decisions: Lands and Realty	
(Land Tenure: Same as Lands and Realty MD-8): Lands classified as priority habitat and general habitat (or habitat classification appropriate for the sub-region) for Greater Sage-Grouse will be retained in federal management unless: (1) The agency can demonstrate that disposal of the lands, including land exchanges, will provide a net conservation gain to the Greater Sage-Grouse; or (2) The agency can demonstrate that the disposal, including land exchanges, of the lands will have no direct or indirect adverse impact on conservation of the Greater Sage-Grouse.	No change proposed.
(MD-3): GHMA are open to minor ROWs and avoidance for major ROWs (high voltage transmission lines of 100 kilovolts or greater and pipelines 24 inches or greater in diameter).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD-1 (Solar and Wind): PHMA will be exclusion areas for solar and wind energy rights-of-way. GHMA will be avoidance areas for solar and wind energy rights-of-way.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

HiLine RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
(Same as Wildlife MD-41): New distribution power lines on BLM land within 1 mile of Greater Sage-Grouse leks will be buried [GHMA].	No change proposed.
(Same as Wildlife MD-43c) The area [PHMA] will be an avoidance area for the issuance of rights-of-way except within designated corridors. Rights-of-way and similar facilities will be located adjacent to other facilities in a corridor where practical. The BLM will consider opportunities to remove, bury, or modify existing power lines (e.g., burying, anti-perching devices or line location).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Decisions: Fluid Mineral Resources	
Action FL-10: Where the federal government owns the surface and the mineral estate is in non-federal ownership in PHMA and GHMA, apply appropriate surface use COAs, stipulations, and mineral RDFs through ROW grants or other surface management instruments, to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities, in coordination with the mineral estate owner/lessee.	No change proposed.
Fluids 9: Where the federal government owns the mineral estate in PHMA and GHMA, and the surface estate is in non-federal ownership, apply the same stipulations, COAs, and/or conservation measures and RDFs applied if the mineral estate is developed on BLM-administered lands in that management area, to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities, and in coordination with the landowner.	No change proposed.
Objective FM 1 and 2: Priority will be given to leasing and development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, outside of PHMA and GHMA. When analyzing leasing and authorizing development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, in PHMA and GHMA, and subject to applicable stipulations for the conservation of GRSG, priority will be given to development in non-habitat areas first and then in the least suitable habitat for GRSG. The implementation of these priorities will be subject to valid existing rights and any applicable law or regulation, including, but not limited to, 30 US Code 226(p) and 43 CFR, Part 3162.3-1(h). Where a proposed fluid mineral development project on an existing lease could adversely affect GRSG populations or habitat, the BLM will work with the lessees, operators, or other project proponents to avoid, minimize, and apply compensatory mitigation for adverse impacts to the extent compatible with lessees' rights to drill and produce fluid mineral resources. The BLM will work with the lessee, operator, or project proponent in developing an application for permit to drill for the lease to avoid and minimize impacts on GRSG or its habitat and will ensure that the best information about the GRSG and its habitat informs and helps to guide development of such Federal leases.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

HiLine RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
(Similar to Wildlife MD-43a): The area [PHMA] will include a NSO stipulation, without modifications or waivers, for oil and gas leasing unless there is a more restrictive stipulation in place to protect other resource values (e.g., no lease in the Mountain Plover ACEC).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
(MD-4): GHMA are open to fluid mineral leasing with moderate and standard constraints.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD-2: The SFA are open to leasing with NSO with no waivers, exceptions, or modifications (WEMs).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
(Same as Wildlife MD-43b): Exploration and development activities for existing oil and gas leases will be managed according to BMPs (Appendix N), or other mitigation measures, through COA in authorizing APDs or plans of development. Consistent with surface use rights granted, the existing lease may be subject to “restrictions deriving from specific, nondiscretionary statutes; and such reasonable measures as may be required by the authorized officer to minimize adverse impacts on other resource values, land uses or users not addressed in the lease stipulations at the time operations are proposed” (43 CFR, Part 3101.1-2). Overall consideration shall be given to minimizing the impact on sage-grouse through a project design that avoids, minimizes, and applies compensatory mitigation for direct and indirect impacts on sage-grouse habitat or use and includes applicable and technically feasible COA (Appendix I). Selection and application of these measures shall be based on current science and research on the impacts on important breeding, nesting, brood-rearing, and wintering areas.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Locatable Minerals	
(Also included as a part of Solid Minerals MD-14): A recommended withdrawal for 927,074 acres from locatable mineral entry to protect the SFA.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
(Same as Solid Minerals MD-15): Within the limits of the Mining Laws, the BLM will apply COAs (Appendix I) to Plans of Operations to prevent undue and unnecessary degradation to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
Management Decisions: Mineral Materials	
(Same as Wildlife MD 43I): PHMA are closed to new mineral material sales. However, these areas remain “open” to free use permits and the expansion of existing active pits, only if the following criteria are met: *the activity is within the BSU and project area disturbance cap; *the activity is subject to the provisions set forth in the mitigation framework (Appendix I); and *all applicable RDFs are applied (Appendix C).	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.

HiLine RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
(Similar to Solid Minerals MD-22): PHMA are closed to new mineral material sales. However, these areas remain “open” to free use permits and the expansion of existing active pits, only if the following criteria are met: * The activity is within the BSU and project area disturbance cap; *The activity is subject to the provisions set forth in the mitigation framework (Appendix F); and *All applicable RDFs are applied and the activity is permissible under the specific subregional screening criteria (Appendix C).	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
Management Decisions: Recreation	
Management Direction REC-1: In PHMA, do not construct new recreation facilities (e.g., campgrounds, trails, trailheads, and staging areas) unless the development will have a net conservation gain to GRSG habitat (such as concentrating recreation, diverting use away from important areas, etc.), or unless the development is required for visitor health and safety or resource protection	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management	
(Same as Wildlife MD-43m): New road construction will be limited to realignments of existing roads, if that realignment has a minimal impact on Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, eliminates the need to construct a new road, or is necessary for public safety. New road construction will include appropriate BMPs and mitigation (Appendices H and I).	No change proposed.
(Same as TM & OHV: MD-7): The BLM will pursue opportunities to conduct restoration of roads, primitive roads and trails not designated during travel management planning, with priority given to areas with special management concerns. This includes primitive routes that have not been designated as “primitive routes” within wilderness study areas (WSAs) and those that have been closed within areas that are being managed to protect or enhance wilderness characteristics or special status species such as the Greater Sage-Grouse. Restoration activities will be done in accordance with guidelines described in Appendix M, Reclamation. Applicable requirements such as specific seed mixes or transplanting recommendations will also be applied where special status species or issues are a concern (e.g., mitigation for Greater Sage-Grouse).	No change proposed.

HiLine RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
(Same as TM and OHV MD-28): In PHMA and GHMA, temporary closures will be considered in accordance with 43 CFR subpart 8364 (Closures and Restrictions); 43 CFR subpart 8351 (Designated National Area); 43 CFR subpart 6302 (Use of Wilderness Areas, Prohibited Acts, and Penalties); 43 CFR subpart 8341 (Conditions of Use). (Same as TM and OHV MD-28): Temporary closure or restriction orders under these authorities are enacted at the discretion of the authorized officer to resolve management conflicts and protect persons, property, and public lands and resources. Where an authorized officer determines that off-highway vehicles (OHV) are causing or will cause considerable adverse effects upon soil, vegetation, wildlife, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, historical resources, threatened or endangered species, wilderness suitability, other authorized uses, or other resources, the affected areas shall be immediately closed to the type(s) of vehicle causing the adverse effect until the adverse effects are eliminated and measures implemented to prevent recurrence (43 CFR, Part 8341.2). A closure or restriction order should be considered only after other management strategies and alternatives have been explored. The duration of temporary closure or restriction orders should be limited to 24 months or less; however, certain situations may require longer closures and/or iterative temporary closures. This may include closure of routes or areas.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Livestock Grazing	
MD-2 (Similar to Livestock Grazing MD-9): Appropriate indicators and measurements specific to habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse, or any other wildlife species of concern, will be evaluated as part of standards and guidelines assessment and any necessary and appropriate habitat objectives specific to meeting the wildlife health standard for the site will be identified and incorporated into allotment management plans (AMPs) or the terms and conditions of livestock grazing permits.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
(Same as MD-36): Consideration will be given to incorporating fine-scale and site-specific Greater Sage-Grouse habitat and management objectives as appropriate to the area into AMPs or livestock grazing permits.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
(Same as Vegetation MD-11): Rangeland health monitoring and assessments will be conducted within current staffing capabilities. The allotments within the Greater Sage-Grouse PHMA and the Grassland Bird/Greater Sage-Grouse PHMA will be high priority for reassessment of land health standards and processing grazing permits as detailed in Appendix I. Rangeland health monitoring plans will be developed and implemented at the field office level.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

HiLine RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
(Same as Livestock Grazing MD-17): Allotments within SFA, followed by those within PHMA, and focusing on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows, will be prioritized for field checks to help ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the grazing permits. Field checks could include monitoring for actual use, utilization, and use supervision.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
(Same as Vegetation MD-9): Water developments will be installed and/or maintained to facilitate control of livestock use of vegetation, support other uses, and protect resource values. In order to minimize surface disturbance, have reliable water of better quality and not alter normal surface flow of water, alternative water developments will be emphasized before constructing new pits and reservoirs. The BLM will manage water developments within Greater Sage-Grouse habitat to reduce the spread of West Nile virus (Appendix I).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
(Same as Wildlife MD-43g): Existing range improvements, including the location of supplements, will be evaluated and if necessary modified to conserve, enhance or restore sage-grouse habitat.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
(Same as Riparian MD-10): Grazing techniques and practices detailed in Appendix I will be implemented to reduce hot season (summer) grazing on riparian and meadow complexes within the PHMA. Alternative water facilities will be installed to relieve grazing impacts on riparian areas inside of priority sage-grouse habitat.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD-1: If monitoring data demonstrate that livestock use on an allotment in a priority Greater Sage-Grouse area is adversely affecting Greater Sage-Grouse or their habitat, the terms and conditions of grazing permits may be modified, or changes in active use could be considered in order to meet the standards for rangeland health as described in 43 CFR, Part 4180 and the Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (Appendix L) or to otherwise manage, maintain, or improve sage-grouse habitat.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
LG-16: At the time a permittee or lessee voluntarily relinquishes a permit or lease, the BLM will consider whether the public lands where that permitted use was authorized should remain available for livestock grazing or be used for other resource management objectives, such as reserve common allotments or fire breaks. This does not apply to or impact grazing preference transfers, which are addressed in 43 CFR 4110.2-3.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Table 2. HiLine Habitat Objectives for GRSG

Habitat Indicators	Dominant Sagebrush, Soil Type and/or Ecological Site				
	Sagebrush on Saline and/or Sodic Soils	Sagebrush on Acid Shale Parent Materials	Silver Sagebrush on Overflow Sites	Silver Sagebrush on All Other Soils/Sites	Wyoming Big Sagebrush on All Other Soils/Sites Sage-Grouse Breeding Habitat
Sagebrush Canopy Cover	> 5%	> 5%	10-25%	> 2%	15-25%
Sagebrush Height	> 6 inches	> 6 inches	> 12 inches	> 12 inches	> 12 inches
Perennial Grass Heights (includes residual grasses)	> 5 inches	> 7 inches	> 7 inches	> 7 inches	> 7 inches
Perennial Grass Canopy Cover (such as green needlegrass)	> 10%	> 10%	> 15%	> 15%	> 10%
Perennial Forb Canopy Cover	> 3%	> 3%	> 10%	> 5%	> 5%
Perennial Forb Availability	> 3 species	> 3 species	> 5 species	> 5 species	> 5 species
Riparian Areas & Wet Meadows	Proper Functioning Condition				
Lek Security	Rocky Mountain juniper and/or Ponderosa pine with less than 1% canopy cover on shrub/grassland ecological sites within 3 kilometers (1.86 miles) of occupied leks Sage-Grouse				
Winter Habitat					
Sagebrush Availability	>10% canopy and >10 inches visible above snow				

2.6.2 Relevant Appendices

The following table shows which appendices from the 2015 plan have management direction that may change through this RMP amendment. The appendices can be found on [the HiLine RMP ePlanning website](#).

ARMPA Appendix Name	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
A: Approved RMP Amendment Maps	Yes
B: Applying Lek Buffer Distances when Approving Actions in Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management Areas	Yes
C: Required Design Features for Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat	Yes
D: The Greater Sage-Grouse Monitoring Framework	No
E: Greater Sage-Grouse Disturbance Caps	Yes
F: Greater Sage-Grouse Mitigation	Yes
G: Oil and Gas Lease Stipulations and Exception, Modification, and Waiver Criteria	Yes
H: Best Management Practices	Yes
I: Mitigation Measures and Conservation Actions for Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat	Yes
J: Adaptive Management Strategy for Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management	Yes
K: USFWS Concurrence	No
L: Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management	No
M: Reclamation	No
N: Oil and Gas Best Management Practices (General Conditions of Approval)	No
O: Fire and Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation	No
P: Recreation Sites and Management Areas	No

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Appendix 2.7
Lewistown RMP

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2.7 LEWISTOWN RMP

This appendix presents the approved RMP revision language from the record of decision for the Lewistown RMP that relate to GRSG management. The table below notes which goals, objectives, appendices, and management decisions/actions have a potential to change as a result of the current planning effort and if so, under which alternatives changes are being considered. Note that any references to tables and appendices are to those applicable RMP appendices that are listed in **Section 2.7.2** of this appendix.

2.7.1 Existing GRSG RMP Management – Lewistown RMP

Table 1. Summary of Goals, Objectives, and Management Actions in Lewistown RMP

Lewistown RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions: Riparian Areas and Wetlands	
Action LG-I.14: Riparian-wetland areas will be managed for PFC within the LFO. Within PHMA and GHMA, manage wet meadows to maintain a component of perennial forbs with diverse species richness relative to site potential (e.g., reference state) to facilitate brood rearing. Also conserve or enhance these wet meadow complexes.	No change proposed.
Action LG-I.17: Human-made water developments, such as reservoirs and stock ponds, can develop riparian-wetland characteristics. Those that have the capability to support important wildlife values (such as GRSG habitats and fisheries) will be managed for such to the extent practical, with greater consideration given to the purpose of the development. When constructing or modifying water developments in PHMA, use RDFs (Appendix C) to reduce potential impacts from West Nile virus.	No change proposed.
Action LG-I.20: Analyze springs, seeps, and associated pipelines during the land health evaluation and determination process to determine if modifications are necessary to maintain the continuity of the predevelopment riparian area within PHMA. Make modifications, where necessary, in accordance with Montana water law, considering impacts on other water uses, when such considerations are neutral or beneficial to GRSG.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Vegetation Communities	
Objective VEG-I.1: In all SFA and PHMA, the desired condition is to maintain all lands ecologically capable of producing sagebrush (but no less than 70%) with a minimum of 15% sagebrush cover or as consistent with specific ecological site conditions. The attributes necessary to sustain these habitats are described in Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health (BLM Tech Ref 1734-6).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Lewistown RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Action VG-I.12: Remove conifers encroaching into sagebrush habitats, in a manner that considers tribal cultural values. Prioritize treatments closest to occupied GRSG habitats and near occupied leks, and where juniper encroachment is phase 1 or phase 2. Use of site-specific analysis and principles like those included in the FIAT report (Chambers et. al., 2014) and other ongoing modeling efforts to address conifer encroachment will help refine the location for specific priority areas to be treated.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Action VEG-I.2: In PHMA and GHMA, prioritize restoration in seasonal habitats that are thought to be limiting GRSG distribution or abundance.	No change proposed.
Action VEG-I.4: Manage for suitable GRSG habitat within PHMA.	No change proposed.
Action VEG-I.3: In PHMA and GHMA, consideration for other threatened, endangered, or sensitive species will be evaluated in addition to GRSG when prioritizing restoration projects.	No change proposed.
Action VEG-I.10: Make reestablishment of suitable GRSG habitat a high priority for restoration. Other restoration efforts within the field office may take precedence over sagebrush habitat projects, based on future threatened and endangered species listing decisions, funding sources and requirements, access to sites, landowner, and other agency cooperation, potential project success, as well as others. Decisions regarding restoration of habitats within the field office will remain at the discretion of the authorized officer.	No change proposed.
Action VEG-I.9: In PHMA, restore native (or desirable) plants and create landscape patterns that most benefit GRSG. Consideration for other threatened, endangered, or sensitive species will be evaluated, in addition to GRSG, when creating landscape habitat patterns.	No change proposed.
Management Direction VEG-I.5: In PHMA, require use of native seeds for restoration based on availability, adaptation (ecological site potential), and probability of success. Where probability of success or adapted seed availability is low, non-native seeds may be used as long as they support GRSG habitat objectives.	No change proposed.
Action VEG-I.8: Choose appropriate seed mix for the location.	No change proposed.

Lewistown RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Action VEG-1.6: In PHMA, design post-restoration management to ensure long-term persistence. This can include changes in current resource management to achieve and maintain the desired condition of the restoration that benefits GRSG. Modifications to livestock grazing will be made in accordance with BLM grazing regulation 43 CFR, Part 4130.3-3, and after consultation, cooperation, and coordination with owners or lessees having lands or managing resources within the affected allotment(s), affected cooperative state grazing districts and the interested public, if the grazing permit is being modified to make these adjustments. Temporary or long-term adjustments in post-restoration livestock use will be implemented by documented agreement or by the decision of the authorized officer in accordance with BLM grazing regulation 43 CFR, Part 4160.	No change proposed.
Management Direction VEG-1.7: In PHMA, consider potential changes in climate when proposing restoration seedings when using native plants. Consider collection from the warmer component of the species current range when selecting native species.	No change proposed.
Management Direction VEG-1.11: In PHMA fire prone areas, where sagebrush seed is required for GRSG habitat restoration, consider establishing seed harvest areas that are managed for seed production and are a priority for protection from outside disturbances.	No change proposed.
Action VEG-1.1: In PHMA, prioritize implementation of restoration projects based on environmental variables that improve chances for project success in areas most likely to benefit GRSG.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Resources	
Goal SSS-1: Maintain and/or increase GRSG abundance and distribution by conserving, enhancing, or restoring the sagebrush ecosystem upon which populations depend, in cooperation with other conservation partners.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Objective SSS-1.2: Habitat Delineation: Delineate PHMA to encompass the 75% breeding bird density map: 233,219 BLM surface acres (19% of total PHMA acres). See Figure 2-1, Lewistown Habitat Management Areas (Appendix A, Approved RMP Amendment Maps).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Objective SSS-1.3: Habitat Delineation: Delineate GHMA to encompass the remainder of the habitat presented in the 100% breeding bird density map: 112,341 BLM surface acres (11% of total GHMA acres).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Lewistown RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Action SSS-1.5: Designate SFA as shown on Figure 2-1 (Appendix A) (53,440 acres). SFA will be managed as PHMA, with the following additional management: 1) Recommended for withdrawal from the General Mining Act of 1872 (as amended), subject to valid existing rights. 2) Prioritized for vegetation management and conservation actions in these areas, including, but not limited to land health assessments, wild horse and burro management actions, review of livestock grazing permits/leases, and habitat restoration (see specific management sections).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Wildlife Objective 8: Minimize fragmentation of large intact blocks of important wildlife habitat, particularly habitat areas for Greater Sage-Grouse and grassland birds.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Action SSS-1.1: In undertaking BLM management actions in PHMA and GHMA, and consistent with valid and existing rights and applicable law in authorizing third-party actions, the BLM will apply the lek buffer-distances identified in the US Geological Survey Report Conservation Buffer Distance Estimates for Greater Sage-Grouse – A Review (Open File Report 2014-1239) in accordance with Appendix B, Applying Lek Buffer Distances When Approving Actions. Also MD WLH & SSS-97	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Habitat Objectives	
[Original language updated through plan maintenance action in 2018] The habitat objectives for GRSG (Table 2.3-2) is a list of indicators, characteristics, and values that describe GRSG seasonal habitat use areas. The BLM used indicator values derived from a synthesis of local and regional GRSG habitat research and data to describe the typical vegetation communities that sage-grouse select. While the habitat objectives are not attainable on every site or every acre within designated GRSG habitat management areas, the values reflect a range of habitat conditions that generally lead to greater survival of individuals within a population. When permitting land use activities, BLM should consider the ecological site potential within designated habitat management areas to validate the habitat conditions achievable for a specific site. The seasonal habitat descriptions in Table 2.3-2 vary across the range of sage-grouse, within a subregion, and between sites. They are not land health standards but are quantitative measures that inform the Special Status Species Habitat Land Health Standard for sage-grouse. These measurable values reflect ecological potential, and may be adjusted based on local factors influencing sage-grouse habitat selection. Local data or recent science may indicate that sage-grouse select for vegetation structure and composition in seasonal habitats not characterized by the values in the habitat objectives table. In these cases, it may be appropriate to adjust the values. Habitat objectives	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

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should be evaluated in the context of annual variability in ecological conditions and should not be used singly to determine habitat suitability for sage-grouse. They may be used to demonstrate trends over time, during plan evaluations for effectiveness of sage-grouse conservation, or when identify limiting habitat characteristics for a given area. The indicators, characteristics, values and desired seasonal habitat conditions in the GRSG Plan Habitat Objectives Table are meant to inform the wildlife habitat component of the Land Health Standards evaluation process (LHS, 43 CFR 4180.2), but do not replace rangeland health assessments. Results from the LHS evaluation should be used to support BLM in land use authorization processes and during development of objectives for management actions such as vegetation treatments. BLM land use authorizations will contain terms and conditions regarding the actions needed to achieve or make progress toward achieving habitat objectives and land health standards. The Habitat Objectives Tables are to be used: • To assess habitat suitability for sage-grouse following the BLM policy on sage-grouse habitat assessments • To evaluate land use plan effectiveness for sage-grouse conservation, and • As a basis to develop measurable project objectives for actions in BLM-designated GRSG Habitat Management areas when considered alongside land health standards, ecological potential and local information. References: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. 2001. Rangeland health standards handbook H-4180-1. https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/uploads/Media_Library_BLM_Policy_h4180-1.pdf	(See above.)
Management Decisions: Disturbance	
Objective SSS-1.1: Protect PHMA from anthropogenic disturbances that will reduce distribution or abundance of GRSG.	No change proposed.

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Action SSS-1.2: Disturbance: If the 3% anthropogenic disturbance cap is exceeded on lands (regardless of land ownership) within GRSG PHMA in any given BSU (see Figure 2-2, Lewistown GRSG Biologically Significant Units and Priority Habitat Management Areas [PHMA] [Appendix A]), then no further discrete anthropogenic disturbances (subject to applicable laws and regulations, such as the 1872 hard rock mining law, valid existing rights, etc.) will be permitted by BLM within GRSG PHMA in any given BSU until the disturbance has been reduced to less than the cap. (BSU for this RMPA is the summary of all the PHMA within a GRSG population as delineated in the COT report.) If the 3% anthropogenic disturbance cap is exceeded on lands (regardless of land ownership), or if anthropogenic disturbance and habitat loss associated with conversion to agricultural tillage or fire exceed 5% within a project analysis area in PHMA, then no further discrete anthropogenic disturbances (subject to applicable laws and regulations, such as the 1872 Mining Law, as amended, valid existing rights, etc.) will be permitted by BLM within a project analysis area until the disturbance has been reduced to less than the cap.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Action SSS-1.4: Disturbance: Protect PHMA from anthropogenic disturbances that will reduce distribution or abundance of GRSG. See Appendix E, Greater Sage-Grouse Disturbance Caps. If the BLM determines that the State of Montana has adopted a GRSG Habitat Conservation Program that contains comparable components to those found in the State of Wyoming's Core Area Strategy including an all lands approach for calculating anthropogenic disturbances, a clear methodology for measuring the density of operations, and a fully operational density and (DDCT, the 3% disturbance cap will be converted to a 5% cap for all sources of habitat alteration within a project analysis area. [Management action clarified in 2018 to reflect State of Montana process, under DOI-BLM-MT-2018-0005-CX. RMP Maintenance Action Language: This maintenance action is to clarify that the BLM has determined that the State's all lands approach to analyzing disturbance is operational and effective. Therefore, the BLM will adopt and implement the State's approach as identified in Attachments D (Stipulations for Uses and Activities) and H (definitions) of Montana Executive Order 12-2015.]	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

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SSS-1.3 : Subject to applicable laws and regulations and valid existing rights, if the average density of one energy and mining facility per 640 acres (the density cap) is exceeded on all lands (regardless of land ownership) in the PHMA within a proposed project analysis area, then no further disturbance from energy or mining facilities will be permitted by BLM: (1) until disturbance in the proposed project analysis area has been reduced to maintain the limit under the cap; or (2) unless the energy or mining facility is co-located into an existing disturbed area.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Action SSS-1.7: Implement Regional Mitigation Strategy (Appendix F).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Action SSS-1.6: Implement Adaptive Management Plan (Appendix I).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Decisions: Wildland Fire Ecology and Management	
Objective FIRE-1.2: Manage wildfires to minimize loss of sagebrush and protect GRSG habitat.	No change proposed.
Action FIRE-1.8: Follow the most current RDFs for fire and fuels (Appendix C).	No change proposed.
Action FIRE-1.4: Follow the most current RDFs for fire and fuels (Appendix C, Required Design Features).	No change proposed.
Action FIRE-1.1: If prescribed fire is used in GRSG habitat, the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plans will address: *why alternative techniques were not selected as a viable options; *how GRSG goals and objectives will be met by its use; *how the COT report objectives will be addressed and met; and *a risk assessment to address how potential threats to GRSG habitat will be minimized. Prescribed fire as vegetation or fuels treatment shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Prescribed fire can be used to meet specific fuels objectives that will protect GRSG habitat in PHMA (e.g., creation of fuel breaks that will disrupt the fuel continuity across the landscape in stands where annual invasive grasses are a minor component in the understory, burning slash piles from conifer reduction treatments, used as a component with other treatment methods to combat annual grasses and restore native plant communities). Prescribed fire in known winter range shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Any prescribed fire in winter habitat will need to be designed to strategically reduce wildfire risk around and/or in the winter range and designed to protect winter range habitat quality.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

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Action FIRE-I.6: The protection of human life is the single, overriding priority. Setting priorities among protecting human communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources will be done based on the values to be protected, human health and safety, and the costs of protection. In PHMA, prioritize suppression, after life and property, to conserve the habitat. See Appendix H, which will be completed to help further refine fire management actions once this plan is completed.	No change proposed.
Action FIRE-I.5: If prescribed fire is used, the burn plan will clearly indicate how COT objectives will be addressed and met, and why alternative techniques are not applicable. A fire risk assessment will be completed for implementation of prescribed fire used to meet the GRSG goals and objectives in PHMA (see Appendix H, GRSG Wildfire and Invasive Species Habitat Assessment).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Action FIRE-I.2: Design fuels management projects in PHMA to strategically and effectively reduce wildfire threats in the greatest area. This may require fuels treatments implemented in a more linear versus block design.	No change proposed.
FIRE-I.9: In PHMA, prioritize native seed allocation for use in GRSG habitat in years when preferred native seed is in short supply. This may require reallocation of native seed from emergency stabilization and rehabilitation (ES&R) projects outside of PHMA to those inside it. Use of native plant seeds for ES&R seedings is required based on availability, adaptation (site potential), and probability of success. Where probability of success or native seed availability is low, non-native seeds may be used as long as they meet GRSG habitat conservation objectives. Re-establishment of appropriate sagebrush species/subspecies and important understory plants, relative to site potential, shall be the highest priority for rehabilitation efforts.	No change proposed.
Action FIRE-I.10: In PHMA, design post ES&R management to ensure long-term persistence of seeded or pre-burn native plants. This can include changes in current resource management to achieve and maintain the desired condition of the restoration effort that benefits GRSG. Modifications to livestock grazing will be made in accordance with BLM grazing regulation 43 CFR, Part 4130.3-3 and after consultation, cooperation and coordination with owners or lessees having lands or managing resources within the affected allotment(s), affected cooperative state grazing districts and the interested public, if the grazing permit is being modified to make these adjustments. Temporary or long-term adjustments in post-restoration livestock use will be implemented by documented agreement or by the decision of the authorized officer in accordance with BLM grazing regulation 43 CFR, Part 4160.	No change proposed.

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Management Direction FIRE-1.1.1: In PHMA, consider potential changes in climate when proposing post-fire seedlings using native plants. Consider seed collections from the warmer component within a species' current range for selection of native seed.	No change proposed.
Management Direction FIRE-1.7: In GHMA, prioritize suppression where wildfires threaten PHMA	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Lands and Realty	
Action LR-1.9: Lands classified as PHMA and GHMA will be retained in federal management unless: (1) the agency can demonstrate that disposal of the lands, including land exchanges, will provide a net conservation gain to the GRSG or (2) the agency can demonstrate that the disposal, including land exchanges, of the lands will have no direct or indirect adverse impact on conservation of the GRSG. See Figure 2-11, Lewistown Land Tenure (Appendix A).	No change proposed.
Action LR-1.13: When offered, PHMA will be a priority in consideration of land acquisitions (refer to Appendix H, Land Pattern Review and Land Adjustment, in Lewistown Field Office Proposed RMPA/Final EIS). Consider GRSG for all land tenure actions.	No change proposed.
Action LR-1.1: PHMA and GHMA will be managed as ROW avoidance areas for high voltage transmission lines (100 kilovolt [kV] and over) and large pipelines (24 inches in width and over) (345,560 acres) with limited exceptions, which must be based on an explicit rationale that biological impacts on GRSG are being avoided with the exception. See Figure 2-10a, Major Rights-of-Way (Appendix A). · PHMA will also be managed as a minor ROW avoidance area (233,219 acres). See Figure 2-10b, Lewistown Minor Rights-of-Way (Appendix A). · GMHA will be open to minor ROWs (112,341 acres). · Where new ROWs are required, collocate new ROWs within existing ROWs or where it best minimizes impacts on GRSG and GRSG habitat. · Appropriate RDFs identified within the terms of the authorization to minimize surface-disturbing and disruptive activities. See Appendix C for RDFs that may be applied based on site-specific project level NEPA analysis.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Action LR-1.2: PHMA will be managed as a ROW exclusion area for wind and solar energy (233,219 acres) and GHMA will be managed as a ROW avoidance area for wind and solar energy (112,341 acres). See Figure 2-8, Lewistown Wind, and Figure 2-9, Lewistown Solar (Appendix A).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

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Action LR-1.6: Leases and permits (other than for cabin site leasing), which may be for occupancy, and film production, will be considered on a case-by-case basis; however, PHMA will be lease and permit avoidance areas. Leases and permits will be allowed in GHMA with appropriate stipulations and conservation measures identified within the terms of the authorization to minimize surface-disturbing and disruptive activities. Avoidance areas within GHMA may be identified.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Action LR-1.3: When addressing ROW authorizations in PHMA, identify and evaluate opportunities to remove, bury, or modify power lines within PHMA. Financial and technical feasibility will be evaluated during the environmental analysis process.	No change proposed.
Action LR-1.9: Consider the likelihood of development of not-yet-constructed surface-disturbing activities – as defined in Table D.2 of the Monitoring Framework (Appendix D)–under valid existing rights prior to authorizing new projects in PHMA.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Fluid Mineral Resources	
Action MR-1.11: Where the federal government owns the surface and the mineral estate is in non-federal ownership in PHMA and GHMA, apply appropriate surface use COAs, stipulations, and mineral RDFs through ROW grants or other surface management instruments, to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities, in coordination with the mineral estate owner/lessee (Appendix C).	No change proposed.
Action MR-1.12: Where the federal government owns the mineral estate in PHMA and GHMA, and the surface estate is in non-federal ownership, apply the same stipulations, COAs, and/or conservation measures and RDFs (Appendix C) applied if the mineral estate is developed on BLM-administered lands in that management area, to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities, and in coordination with the landowner.	No change proposed.
Action MR-1.1: Allow geophysical exploration within PHMA to obtain exploratory information for areas outside of and adjacent to PHMA areas. Allow only geophysical operations by helicopter-portable drilling methods and in accordance with seasonal timing restrictions and other restrictions that may apply (see Appendix C).	Potential change under Alternative 3.
FW-AU-01: Apply NSO stipulations to greater sage-grouse PHMA.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
FW-AU-02: Apply NSO stipulations within 0.6 miles of a lek within GHMA.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
FW-AU-03: Apply CSU stipulations within 2 miles of a lek within GHMA.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Lewistown RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD-1: No waivers or modifications to a fluid mineral lease NSO stipulation will be granted in PHMA. The authorized officer may grant an exception to a fluid mineral lease NSO stipulation only where the proposed action: (i) would not have direct, indirect, or cumulative effects on Greater Sage-Grouse or its habitat; or (ii) is proposed to be undertaken as an alternative to a similar action occurring on a nearby parcel, and would provide a clear conservation gain to Greater Sage-Grouse. *Exceptions based on conservation gain (ii) may only be considered in (a) PHMA of mixed ownership where federal minerals underlie less than fifty percent of the total surface, or (b) areas of the public lands where the proposed exception is an alternative to an action occurring on a nearby parcel subject to a valid federal fluid mineral lease existing as of the date of this RMP revision. Exceptions based on conservation gain must also include measures, such as enforceable institutional controls and buffers, sufficient to allow the BLM to conclude that such benefits will endure for the duration of the proposed action's impacts. *Any exceptions to this lease stipulation may be approved by the authorized officer only with the concurrence of the State Director. The authorized officer may not grant an exception unless the applicable state wildlife agency, the USFWS, and the BLM unanimously find that the proposed action satisfies (i) or (ii). Such finding shall initially be made by a team of one field biologist or other Greater Sage-Grouse expert from each respective agency. In the event the initial finding is not unanimous, the finding may be elevated to the appropriate BLM State Director, USFWS State Ecological Services Director, and state wildlife agency head for final resolution. In the event their finding is not unanimous, the exception will not be granted. Approved exceptions will be made publicly available at least quarterly.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

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Action MR-1.2: During implementation level review and decisions, (e.g., approval of an application for permit to drill or Sundry Notice) and on completion of the environmental record of review (43 CFR, Part 3162.5), include appropriate documentation of compliance with NEPA. In this process evaluate, among other things: · Whether the conservation measure is reasonable (43 CFR, Part 3101.1-2) with the valid existing rights; and · Whether the action is in conformance with the ARMPA. The following operating constraints will be applied to existing leases as COAs in PHMA and GHMA. Exceptions may be granted by the authorized officer if an environmental review demonstrates that effects can be mitigated to an acceptable level, if habitat for the species is not present in the area, or if portions of the area can be occupied without affecting GRSG. Exceptions may also be granted where the short-term effects on GRSG within PHMA and GHMA are mitigated by the long-term benefits. Permanent (longer than two months) structures that create movement must be designed or sited to minimize impacts on GRSG. · As reasonable (43 CFR, Part 3101.1-2), in consideration of valid existing rights, and to achieve a net conservation gain, the BLM will require compensatory mitigation when impacts cannot be adequately avoided and minimized, and residual impacts will result in habitat loss and degradation. Compensatory mitigation actions will align with the recommendations in the Regional Mitigation Strategy (see Appendix F), as appropriate. A priority may be given to compensatory mitigation actions in the same PHMA as is being impacted, unless a greater benefit can be achieved elsewhere. Compensatory mitigation will be considered when no feasible options remain to adequately avoid and minimize impacts within and immediately adjacent to the impacted site. · Make applicable RDFs (Appendix C) mandatory as COAs within PHMA and GHMA. RDFs provided in Appendix C will be site-specific restrictions applied to permits to drill as COAs after the completion of site-specific NEPA analysis. Standard stipulations (see Appendix G, Oil and Gas Lease Stipulations) apply to existing leases. See Figure 2-4, Lewistown Fluid Minerals (Oil and Gas) (Appendix A). Applied RDFs will have to be reasonable (43 CFR, Part 3101.1-2) with the valid existing rights and in conformance with the approved Judith and Headwaters RMPs.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Decisions: Solid Leasable Minerals	
Action MR-1.7: Close PHMA to nonenergy leasable mineral leasing. This includes not permitting any new leases to expand an existing mine. See Figure 2-7, Lewistown Non-Energy Leasable Minerals (Appendix A).	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.

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Action MR-1.8: For existing nonenergy leasable mineral leases in PHMA, apply all appropriate RDFs from Appendix C, whether traditional or solution mining is used to extract resources.	No change proposed.
Action SL-Coal-6: At the time an application for a new coal lease or lease modification is submitted to the BLM, the BLM will determine whether the lease application area is "unsuitable" for all or certain coal mining methods pursuant to 43 CFR, Part 3461.5. PHMA is essential habitat for maintaining GRSB for purposes of the suitability criteria set forth at 43 CFR, Part 3461.5(o)(1).	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Locatable Materials	
Action MR-1.4: Recommend SFA (53,440 acres) for withdrawal from the General Mining Act of 1872 (as amended), subject to valid existing rights. Analyze proposed action in Plan of Operations and apply mitigating measures needed to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation, as appropriate and in accordance with applicable law.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
Action LR-1.15: SFA (53,440 acres) will be recommended for withdrawal from the General Mining Act of 1872 (as amended), subject to valid existing rights.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
Management Decisions: Mineral Materials	
Action MR-1.9: In GHMA, the BLM will issue permits for salable minerals, where disposal is deemed to be in the public interest.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
Action MR-1.10: In PHMA, restore salable mineral pits no longer in use to meet GRSB habitat conservation objectives	No change proposed.
FWV-AU-04: PHMA are open to new mineral material sales for both free and commercial use following disturbance guidelines and other applicable conservation measures.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Decisions: Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management	
Action TTM-1.1: BLM-administered lands are designated limited to existing roads, primitive roads, and trails yearlong for off-highway vehicle use (OHVs; OHVs are restricted to existing roads, primitive roads, and trails). Implement a comprehensive travel and transportation management (CTTM) plan to designate roads and trails (when travel management plan is complete). Administrative off-road use for BLM personnel and BLM authorized activities will be allowed. BLM-implemented CTTM will not apply to private or other state or federal lands within the LFO.	No change proposed.

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Action TTM-I.5: Through site-specific planning, the BLM will designate roads, primitive roads, and trails for motorized use. Roads, primitive roads, and trails will be inventoried, mapped, and analyzed to the degree necessary to evaluate and designate the roads, primitive roads, and trails as open, seasonally open, or closed (BLM 2003). All CTTM planning shall be completed within 5 years of the signing of the ROD. The CTTM planning will be conducted using an interdisciplinary team approach to address all resource uses, including administrative, recreation, commercial, and associated modes of travel (motorized, mechanized, and nonmotorized types; BLM—Travel and Transportation Handbook [H-8342]).	No change proposed.
Action TTM-I.8: In PHMA, during site-specific travel and transportation management planning, the upgrading of existing routes that will change route category (road, primitive road, or trail) or capacity may be allowed when there are minimal impacts on GRSG and GRSG habitat, if it is necessary for motorist safety, or if it eliminates the need to construct a new road. All upgrades to existing routes will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and will be subject to valid existing rights (e.g., existing ROWs or easements).	No change proposed.
Action TTM-I.6: In PHMA, during site-specific travel and transportation management planning, limit route construction to realignment of existing routes if that realignment has a minimal impact on GRSG habitat, if it eliminates the need to construct a new road, or if it is necessary for motorist safety.	No change proposed.
Action TTM-I.9: When travel plans are complete, restore roads, primitive roads and trails in PHMA that are not designated in travel management plans. This also includes primitive routes/roads that were not designated in wilderness study areas (WSA) that have been selected for protection in previous RMPs.	No change proposed.

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Action TTM-1.1.1: In PHMA and GHMA, temporary closures will be considered in accordance with 43 CFR, subpart 8364 (Closures and Restrictions); 43 CFR, subpart 8351 (Designated National Area); 43 CFR, subpart 6302 (Use of Wilderness Areas, Prohibited Acts, and Penalties); 43 CFR, subpart 8341 (Conditions of Use). Temporary closure or restriction orders under these authorities are enacted at the discretion of the authorized officer to resolve management conflicts and protect persons, property, and public lands and resources. Where an authorized officer determines that OHVs are causing or will cause considerable adverse effects upon soil, vegetation, wildlife, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, historical resources, threatened or endangered species, wilderness suitability, other authorized uses, or other resources, the affected areas shall be immediately closed to the type(s) of vehicle causing the adverse effect until the adverse effects are eliminated and measures implemented to prevent recurrence (43 CFR, Part 8341.2). A closure or restriction order shall be considered only after other management strategies and alternatives have been explored. The duration of temporary closure or restriction orders shall be limited to 24 months or less; however, certain situations may require longer closures and/or iterative temporary closures. This may include closure of routes or areas.	No change proposed.
Action TTM-1.1.4: During route designation and travel planning in PHMA, travel management will evaluate the need for permanent or seasonal route or area closures where vehicle use is causing or will cause considerable adverse effects on habitat.	No change proposed.
Action TTM-1.1.7: In PHMA, during site-specific travel and transportation management planning, use existing routes or realignments, as described above, to access valid existing rights that are not yet developed. If valid existing rights cannot be accessed via existing routes, then build any new route to the absolute minimum standard necessary.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Livestock Grazing	
Action LG-1.1: GRSG habitat objectives will be considered when evaluating an allotment's conformance with land health standards (see Appendix F in the Lewistown Field Office Proposed RMPA/Final EIS) prior to renewing a grazing authorization.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Action LG-1.2: In PHMA and GHMA, conduct land health evaluations and determinations that include (at a minimum) indicators and/or measurements of structure/condition/composition of vegetation specific to achieving GRSG habitat objectives. Management actions will be developed and implemented within one year if land health determinations indicate that an allotment is not meeting standards due to current livestock grazing. Appendix D addresses mid-scale monitoring.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

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(Same as Wildlife MD-43e): The area will remain available for livestock grazing. Site-specific Greater Sage-Grouse habitat and management objectives will be developed for BLM land and incorporated into the respective AMPs or livestock grazing permits as appropriate. Third order (fine-scale) and fourth order (site-scale) habitat indicators and characteristics for sage-grouse habitat seasonal use areas as described in the Sage-Grouse Habitat Assessment Framework (Stiver, et al. 2015) will be used to quantify habitat objectives.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Action LG-1.7: In PHMA, conduct land health evaluations and determinations that include (at a minimum) indicators and/or measurements of structure/condition/composition of vegetation specific to achieving GRSg habitat objectives. Management actions will be developed if land health determinations indicate that an allotment is not meeting standards due to current livestock grazing. Appendix D addresses mid-scale monitoring.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Action LG-1.9: In PHMA and GHMA, conduct land health evaluations and determinations that include (at a minimum) indicators and/or measurements of structure/condition/composition of vegetation specific to achieving GRSg habitat objectives. Management actions will be developed if land health determinations indicate that an allotment is not meeting standards due to livestock grazing in accordance with BLM grazing regulations 43 CFR, Part 4100. Appendix D addresses mid-scale monitoring.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
(Same as Livestock Grazing MD-12): The BLM will prioritize (1) the review of grazing permits/leases, in particular to determine if modification is necessary prior to renewal, and (2) the processing of grazing permits/leases in SFA followed by PHMA outside of the SFA. In setting workload priorities, precedence will be given to existing permits/leases in these areas not meeting Land Health Standards, with focus on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows. The BLM may use other criteria for prioritization to respond to urgent natural resource concerns (e.g., fire) and legal obligations.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Action LG-1.6: Allotments that have the best opportunities for conserving, enhancing, or restoring habitat for GRSg will receive high priority for monitoring, evaluation, and management.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Lewistown RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Action LG 1.5: The BLM will prioritize (1) the review of grazing permits/leases in particular to determine if modification is necessary prior to renewal); and (2) the processing of grazing permits/leases in in SFA, followed by PHMA. In setting will prioritize (1) the review of grazing permits/leases in particular to determine if modification is necessary prior to renewal); and (2) the processing of grazing permits/leases in in SFA, followed by PHMA. In setting workload priorities, precedence will be given to existing permits/leases in these areas not meeting Land Health Standards, with focus on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows. The BLM may use other criteria for prioritization to respond to urgent natural resource concerns (e.g., fire) and legal obligations. The NEPA analysis for renewals and modifications of livestock grazing permits/leases that include lands within PHMA will include specific management thresholds, based on GRSG Habitat Objectives (Table 2-2), Land Health Standards (43 CFR, Part 4180.2) and ecological site potential, and one or more defined responses that will allow the authorizing officer to make adjustments to livestock grazing that have already been subjected to NEPA analysis. Ecological site descriptions, riparian PFC protocols, water quality data, and various types of appropriate vegetative, riparian, habitat, and any other applicable data will continue to be used as the basis in allotment evaluations to determine conformance to Standards for Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (see Appendix F, in the Lewistown Field Office Proposed RMPA/Final EIS)	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Action LG 1.5 [part]: Allotments within SFA, followed by those within PHMA, and focusing on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows, will be prioritized for field checks to help ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the grazing permits. Field checks can include monitoring for actual use, utilization, and use supervision.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Action LG-1.8: The BLM will monitor grazing permits/leases renewed or modified in accordance with the direction contained in this guidance as follows: Allotments within SFA, followed by those in other PHMA, and focusing on those with riparian areas, will be prioritized for monitoring to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions in the permits. The BLM will collect, at a minimum, the following monitoring data: · Vegetation Condition · Actual Use · Utilization · Use Supervision	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

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Action LG-I.21: Evaluate the role of existing seedings that are currently composed of primarily introduced perennial grasses in and adjacent to PHMA to determine if they should be restored to sagebrush or habitat of higher quality for GRSG. If these seedings are part of a grazing management plan that is providing value in conserving or enhancing native rangelands in PHMA and other priority wildlife habitats, then no restoration will be necessary. Assess the compatibility of these seedings for GRSG habitat or as a component of a grazing system during the land health evaluation and determination process.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Action LG-I.26: When developing or modifying water developments in PHMA and GHMA, use applicable RDFs (Appendix C) to reduce potential impacts from West Nile virus.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Action LG-I.27: During the land health evaluation and determination and grazing authorization renewal process (typically every 10 years), examine existing structural range improvements and location of supplements (salt or protein blocks) to ensure they conserve, enhance or restore PHMA. · Identify and mark fences in high and moderate risk areas, as identified by the use of “The Fence Collision Risk Tool” (http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/) within PHMA, based on proximity to lek, lek size, and topography (Stevens 2011, Stevens et al. 2013). · During the allotment evaluation and determination and grazing authorization renewal process, examine existing structural range improvements to ensure they conserve, enhance, or restore PHMA. · In PHMA and GHMA, monitor for and treat invasive and noxious weed species associated with existing range improvement projects.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Action LG-I.24: In PHMA, site and design new structural range improvements and location of supplements (salt or protein blocks) to conserve, enhance, or restore said habitat through an improved grazing management system relative to GRSG habitat objectives. Structural range improvements, in this context, include cattle guards, fences, exclosures, corrals, or other livestock handling structures; pipelines, troughs, storage tanks (including movable tanks used in livestock water hauling), windmills, ponds/reservoirs, solar panels, and spring developments).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Lewistown RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Action LG-I.18: Within PHMA, reduce hot season grazing on riparian and meadow complexes to promote recovery or maintenance of appropriate vegetation and water quality. Use fencing/herding techniques or seasonal use or livestock distribution changes to reduce pressure on riparian or wet meadow vegetation used by GRSG in summer. Hot season use of riparian and wet meadow complexes may be authorized where consistent with overall GRSG habitat objectives and where use is currently resulting in vegetative conditions that are in conformance with land health standards.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Action LG-I.4: In PHMA, cooperate with ranchers and other agencies on integrated ranch planning so operations with intermingled land ownerships within BLM allotments can be planned as single units.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Action LG-I.10: Conserve, enhance, or restore PHMA based on ecological site descriptions (including wetlands and riparian areas). If an effective grazing system that meets GRSG habitat objectives is not already in place, analyze at least one allotment-specific alternative within the planning unit/permit renewal process that conserves, restores, or enhances PHMA.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Action LG-I.11: In PHMA, manage for vegetation composition and structure consistent with ecological site potential within the reference state to achieve GRSG seasonal habitat objectives. Natural ecological processes that impede localized site potential and that create a mosaic of habitat successional patterns will continue to occur.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Action LG-I.12: In PHMA, implement management actions within or outside of the watershed planning/permit renewal process to modify grazing management and to meet seasonal GRSG habitat objectives. Consider singly, or in combination, for changes in: · Season or timing of use · Numbers of livestock (includes temporary non-use or livestock removal) · Distribution of livestock use · Intensity of use · Type of livestock	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Lewistown RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Action LG-1.13: During drought periods, prioritize evaluating effects of the drought in PHMA, relative to their needs for food and cover. Drought management will continue to be in accordance with the Montana/Dakotas drought policy (see Appendix I, Drought Policy, in the Lewistown Field Office Proposed RMPA/Final EIS). Since there is a lag in vegetation recovery following drought, post-drought management will be implemented to allow for vegetation recovery that meets GRSG needs in PHMA. In accordance with BLM grazing regulation 43 CFR, Part 4130.3-3, consultation, cooperation, and coordination with owners or lessees having lands or managing resources within the area, the affected cooperative state grazing district, and interested public will be completed prior to adjusting post-drought livestock management if the grazing permit is being modified to make these adjustments. Implementation of adjustments will be initiated through documented agreement or by decision of the authorized officer in accordance with BLM grazing regulation 43 CFR, Part 4160.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Action LG 1.5 (part): At the time a permittee or lessee voluntarily relinquishes a grazing permit or lease, the BLM will consider whether the public lands where that permitted use was authorized shall remain available for livestock grazing or be used for other resource management objectives, such as reserve common allotments or fire breaks. This does not apply to or impact grazing preference transfers, which are addressed in 43 CFR, 4110.2-3.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Table 1. Lewistown Habitat Objectives for GRSG

Attribute	Indicator	Desired Condition	Reference
BREEDING, NESTING, AND EARLY BROOD REARING (Seasonal Use Period: March 1 to June 30)			
Lek Security	Proximity of trees	Trees or other tall structures are not within line of sight of lek and absent or uncommon within 3 kilometers (km) (1.9 miles) of the lek.	Connelly et al. 2000
	Collision Risks	Fences and other structures that pose a high collision risk are absent or mitigated with visual markers.	Connelly et al. 2000. Stevens 2011
	Proximity of sagebrush to leks	Adjacent protective sagebrush cover within 100 meters (m; 328 feet [ft.]) of an active lek.	Stiver et al. 2015
Cover	Sagebrush cover	10-25%	Berkeley et al. 2013 Connelly et al. 2000 Doherty et al. 2010 Lane 2005 Hagen et al. 2007 Sant et al. 2014
	Sagebrush height	40-80 centimeters (cm) (15.7-31.5 inches) individual sagebrush available within stand (for nesting) with a variety of heights (including those <40 cm [<15.7 inches]).	Connelly et al. 2000 Lane 2005
	Predominant sagebrush shape	Spreading	Stiver et al. 2015
	Perennial grass cover (such as bluebunch wheatgrass, green needlegrass and western wheatgrass)	$\geq 15\%$	Connelly et al. 2000 Lane 2005 Sant et al. 2014
	Perennial grass and forb height (includes residual grasses)	≥ 18 cm (≥ 7.1 inches)	Berkeley et al. 2013 Connelly et al. 2000 Doherty et al. 2014 Hagen et al. 2007 Taylor et al. 2012
	Perennial forb cover	$\geq 10\%$	Connelly et al. 2000 Sant et al. 2014

Attribute	Indicator	Desired Condition	Reference
LATE BROOD-REARING/SUMMER (Seasonal Use Period: July 1 to October 31)			
Cover	Sagebrush cover	5-25%	Connelly et al. 2000 Lane 2005 Hagen et al. 2007 Sant et al. 2014
	Sagebrush height	40-80 cm (15.7-31.5 inches) individual sagebrush available within stand (for nesting) with a variety of heights (including those <40 cm [<15.7 inches]).	Connelly et al. 2000 Lane 2005
	Perennial grass and forb cover	≥25%	Connelly et al. 2000 Hagen et al. 2007 Sant et al. 2014
	Riparian areas/mesic meadows	80% or more of PHMA in Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) or higher.	Prichard et al. 1999 Schroeder et al. 1999 USDI BLM 1997
	Upland and riparian perennial forb availability	Preferred forbs are common with several preferred species present	Connelly et al. 2000 Stiver et al. 2015
WINTER (Seasonal Use Period: November 1 to February 28)			
Cover and Food	Sagebrush cover	≥10%	Wallestad 1975 Connelly et al. 2000 Sant et al. 2014
	Sagebrush height	≥25cm (≥9.8 inches)	Connelly et al. 2000.

2.7.2 Relevant Appendices

The following table shows which appendices from the 2015 and 2021 plans have management direction that may change through this RMP amendment. The 2015 Appendices can be found on [the Lewistown GRSG ePlanning website](#). The 2021 Appendices can be found on [the Lewistown RMP ePlanning website](#).

ARMPA Appendix Name	Year	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
A: Figures	2021	Yes
B: Collaboration and Coordination	2021	No
C: RMP Amendments, Implementation-Level Plans, and Related Land Use Plans	2021	No
D: Implementation and Monitoring	2021	No
E: Special Status Species Confirmed or Likely to Inhabit the Planning Area	2021	No
F: Design Features and Best Management Practices	2021	Yes (grazing BMPs)
G: Reclamation	2021	No
H: Draft Air Resource Management Plan: Adaptive Management Strategy for Oil and Gas Resources	2021	No
I: Fire and Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation	2021	No
J: Impoundments	2021	No
K: North Continental Divide Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy	2021	No
L: Stipulations and Allocations Applicable to Fluid Minerals Leasing	2021	Yes
M: Summary of the Lewistown Field Office Wilderness Characteristics: 2014 Update	2021	No
N: BLM Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Grazing	2021	No
O: Allotments	2021	No
P: Drought Policy	2021	No

ARMPA Appendix Name	Year	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Q: Recreation Management Areas	2021	No
R: Land Ownership Adjustment Categories	2021	No
S: Withdrawal Segregations	2021	No
T: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern: Report on the Application of the Relevance and Importance Criteria	2021	No
U: Land Management Allocations	2021	No
V: Draft Wild and Scenic River Report	2021	No
W: Analysis Assumptions and Cumulative Effect Scenario	2021	No
X: Public Comments and BLM Response	2021	No
A - Approved RMP Amendment Maps	2015	Yes – See also 2021
B - Applying Lek Buffer Distances When Approving Actions	2015	Yes
C - Required Design Features	2015	Yes – See also 2021 (grazing BMPs)
D - The Greater Sage-Grouse Monitoring Framework	2015	Yes
E - Greater Sage-Grouse Disturbance Caps	2015	Yes
F - Regional Mitigation Strategy	2015	Yes
G - Oil and Gas Stipulations	2015	N/A – See 2021
H - GRSG Wildfire and Invasive Species Habitat Assessment	2015	Yes
I - Adaptive Management Strategy for Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management	2015	Yes

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Appendix 2.8
Miles City RMP

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2.8 MILES CITY RMP

This appendix presents the approved RMP revision language from the record of decision for the Miles City RMP that relate to GRSG management. The table below notes which goals, objectives, appendices, and management decisions/actions have a potential to change as a result of the current planning effort and if so, under which alternatives changes are being considered. Note that any references to tables and appendices are to those applicable RMP appendices that are listed in **Section 2.8.2** of this appendix.

2.8.1 Existing GRSG RMP Management – Miles City RMP

Table 1. Summary of Goals, Objectives, and Management Actions in Miles City RMP

Miles City RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions: Vegetation Communities	
Objective 5: In all PHMA, the desired condition is to maintain all lands ecologically capable of producing sagebrush (but no less than 70%) with a minimum of 15% sagebrush cover or as consistent with specific ecological site conditions. The attributes necessary to sustain these habitats are described in Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health (BLM Tech Ref 1734-6).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD 2: Remove conifers encroaching into sagebrush habitats, in a manner that considers tribal cultural values. Prioritize treatments closest to occupied GRSG habitats and near occupied leks, and where juniper encroachment is phase 1 or phase 2. Use of site-specific analysis and principles like those included in the Fire and Invasive Species Team (FIAT) report (Chambers et. al., 2014) and other ongoing modeling efforts to address conifer encroachment will help refine the location for specific priority areas to be treated.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Decisions: Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Resources	
Goal 1: Provide for the conservation, enhancement, restoration, and connectivity of the Northern Great Plains mixed grass prairie and shrubland, capable of supporting sustainable populations of GRSG and other wildlife species.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Objective 2: Conserve GRSG habitat while promoting movement and genetic diversity	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
PHMA Objective 2: Restore degraded GRSG habitat.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
PHMA Objective 1: Maintain or increase GRSG habitat over the long-term, recognizing valid existing rights.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
(GHMA) Goal 1: Maintain or increase habitat needed for GRSG through the management of surface disturbing and disruptive activities, including the loss and distribution of sagebrush habitat.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD-1 (part): In undertaking BLM management actions and consistent with valid and existing rights and applicable law in authorizing third-party actions, the BLM will apply the lek buffer-distances identified in the United States geological Survey (USGS) Report (see Appendix B, GRSG Conservation Buffer). [GHMA]	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
RHMA Objective 1: Strive for proponents to develop area-wide Habitat Recovery Plans.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Miles City RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
RHMA Objective 2: Strive for no net loss of GRSG habitat.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
RHMA Objective 3: Strive for the restoration of previously disturbed landscapes in a manner which increases or improves the quality and quantity of GRSG habitat.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
All HMAs Objective 1: Maintain, improve and increase sagebrush habitats to sustain sagebrush obligates and other sagebrush dependent species.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
In addition, surface occupancy and use within 2 miles of leks is restricted or prohibited. Prior to such activities, a plan to mitigate impacts on nesting GRSG or their habitat will be prepared by the proponent and implemented upon approval, by the Authorized Officer (AO) (CSU) (652,000 acres). [GHMA]	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD 3 (part): PHMA is managed according to the following prescriptions: In undertaking BLM management actions, and consistent with valid and existing rights and law in authorizing third-party actions, the BLM will apply the lek buffer-distances identified in the USGS Report Conservation Buffer Distance Estimates for Greater Sage-grouse – A Review (Open File Report 2014-1239), in accordance with Appendix B, GRSG Conservation Buffer.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Decisions: Habitat Objectives	
[Original language updated through plan maintenance action in 2018] The habitat objectives for GRSG (Table 2.3-2) is a list of indicators, characteristics, and values that describe GRSG seasonal habitat use areas. The BLM used indicator values derived from a synthesis of local and regional GRSG habitat research and data to describe the typical vegetation communities that sage-grouse select. While the habitat objectives are not attainable on every site or every acre within designated GRSG habitat management areas, the values reflect a range of habitat conditions that generally lead to greater survival of individuals within a population. When permitting land use activities, BLM should consider the ecological site potential within designated habitat management areas to validate the habitat conditions achievable for a specific site. The seasonal habitat descriptions in Table 2.3-2 vary across the range of sage-grouse, within a subregion, and between sites. They are not land health standards but are quantitative measures that inform the Special Status Species Habitat Land Health Standard for sage-grouse. These measurable values reflect ecological potential, and may be adjusted based on local factors influencing sage-grouse habitat selection. Local data or recent science may indicate that sage-grouse select for vegetation structure and composition in seasonal habitats not characterized by the values in the habitat objectives table. In these cases, it may be appropriate to adjust the values. Habitat objectives	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Miles City RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
should be evaluated in the context of annual variability in ecological conditions and should not be used singly to determine habitat suitability for sage-grouse. They may be used to demonstrate trends over time, during plan evaluations for effectiveness of sage-grouse conservation, or when identify limiting habitat characteristics for a given area. The indicators, characteristics, values and desired seasonal habitat conditions in the GRSG Plan Habitat Objectives Table are meant to inform the wildlife habitat component of the Land Health Standards evaluation process (LHS, 43 CFR 4180.2), but do not replace rangeland health assessments. Results from the LHS evaluation should be used to support BLM in land use authorization processes and during development of objectives for management actions such as vegetation treatments. BLM land use authorizations will contain terms and conditions regarding the actions needed to achieve or make progress toward achieving habitat objectives and land health standards. The Habitat Objectives Tables are to be used: • To assess habitat suitability for sage-grouse following the BLM policy on sage-grouse habitat assessments • To evaluate land use plan effectiveness for sage-grouse conservation, and • As a basis to develop measurable project objectives for actions in BLM-designated GRSG Habitat Management areas when considered alongside land health standards, ecological potential and local information. References: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. 2001. Rangeland health standards handbook H-4180-1. https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/uploads/Media_Library_BLM_Policy_h4180-1.pdf	(See above.)

Miles City RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions: Disturbance	
MD 3 (part): PHMA is managed according to the following prescriptions: If the 3% anthropogenic disturbance cap is exceeded on lands (regardless of land ownership) or if anthropogenic disturbance and habitat loss associated with conversion to agricultural tillage or fire exceed 5% within a analysis area in PHMA, then no further discrete anthropogenic disturbances (subject to applicable laws and regulations, such as the Mining Law of 1872, valid existing rights, etc.) will be permitted by BLM within PHMA in a analysis area until the disturbance has been reduced to less than the cap. If the 3% anthropogenic disturbance cap is exceeded on lands (regardless of land ownership) within GRSG PHMA in any given BSU, then no further discrete anthropogenic disturbances (subject to applicable laws and regulations, such as the Mining Law of 1872, as amended, valid existing rights, etc.) will be permitted by BLM within GRSG PHMA in any given BSU until the disturbance has been reduced to less than the cap. If the BLM determines that the State of Montana has adopted a GRSG Habitat Conservation Program that contains comparable components to those found in the State of Wyoming's Core Area Strategy including an all lands approach for calculating anthropogenic disturbances, a clear methodology for measuring the density of operations, and a fully operational Density Disturbance Calculation Tool, the 3% disturbance cap will be converted to a 5% cap for all sources of habitat alteration within an analysis area. [Management action clarified in 2018 to reflect State of Montana process, under DOI-BLM-MT-2018-0005-CX. RMP Maintenance Action Language: This maintenance action is to clarify that the BLM has determined that the State's all lands approach to analyzing disturbance is operational and effective. Therefore, the BLM will adopt and implement the State's approach as identified in Attachments D (Stipulations for Uses and Activities) and H (definitions) of Montana Executive Order 12-2015.]	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD 1: In all GRSG habitat, in undertaking BLM management actions, and, consistent with valid existing rights and applicable law, in authorizing third-party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation, the BLM will require and ensure mitigation that provides a net conservation gain to the species including accounting for any uncertainty associated with the effectiveness of such mitigation. This will be achieved by avoiding, minimizing, and compensating for impacts by applying beneficial mitigation actions.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Miles City RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 2: Will follow the adaptive management strategy outlined in Appendix H, GRSG Adaptive Management Strategy. The hard and soft trigger data will be analyzed as soon as it becomes available after the signing of the ROD and then at a minimum, analyzed annually thereafter.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Decisions: Wildland Fire Ecology and Management	
MD 3: If prescribed fire is used in GRSG habitat, the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan will address: -why alternative techniques were not selected as a viable options; -how GRSG goals and objectives will be met by its use; -how the COT Report objectives will be addressed and met; -a risk assessment to address how potential threats to GRSG habitat will be minimized Prescribed fire as vegetation or fuels treatment shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Prescribed fire could be used to meet specific fuels objectives that will protect GRSG habitat in PHMA (e.g., creation of fuel breaks that will disrupt the fuel continuity across the landscape in stands where annual invasive grasses are a minor component in the understory, burning slash piles from conifer reduction treatments, used as a component with other treatment methods to combat annual grasses and restore native plant communities). Prescribed fire in known winter range shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Any prescribed fire in winter habitat will need to be designed to strategically reduce wildfire risk around and/or in the winter range and designed to protect winter range habitat quality.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD 1: The BLM will prioritize fire management activities according to potential risks to life and property across the planning area. Wildfires adjacent to or near wildland urban or industrial interface will have the highest priority for fire suppression. In PHMA, prioritize suppression, after life and property, to conserve the habitat. In GHMA, prioritize suppression where wildfires threaten PHMA.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Lands and Realty	
MD 5: Lands classified as PHMA and GHMA for GRSG will be retained in federal management unless: (1) the agency can demonstrate that disposal of the lands, including land exchanges, will provide a net conservation gain to the GRSG or (2) the agency can demonstrate that the disposal, including land exchanges, of the lands will have no direct or indirect adverse impact on conservation of the GRSG.	No change proposed.

Miles City RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 3 (part): PHMA is managed according to the following prescriptions: Major (high voltage transmission lines and large pipelines) and minor ROWs will avoid GRSG priority areas (817,000 acres).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD 1 (part): Major ROWs (100 kv and over for high voltage transmission lines and 24 inch in width and over for large pipelines) and renewable energy ROWs will avoid GRSG GHMA (1,395,000 acres). Minor ROWs will be allowed with design features to protect breeding, nesting and brood rearing in GRSG GHMA (1,365,000 acres).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD 3 (part): PHMA is managed according to the following prescriptions: Renewable Energy ROWs will be excluded within GRSG priority areas (817,000 acres).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD 1 (part): Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities will be allowed with required design features to minimize disturbance to GRSG habitat (87,000 acres). -Renewable Energy ROWs will be excluded within all Restoration Areas. -Major ROWs will be avoided and minor ROWs will be allowed with design features.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD 4: Consider the likelihood of development of not-yet-constructed surface-disturbing activities – as defined in Table 2 of the Monitoring Framework (Appendix D)–under valid existing rights prior to authorizing new projects in PHMA.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Fluid Mineral Resources	
MD 8 (partial): Where the federal government owns the surface and the mineral estate is in non-federal ownership in PHMA and GHMA, apply appropriate surface use COAs, stipulations, and mineral RDFs through ROW grants or other surface management instruments, to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities, in coordination with the mineral estate owner/lessee.	No change proposed.
MD 8 (partial): Where the federal government owns the mineral estate in PHMA and GHMA, and the surface is in non-federal ownership, apply the same stipulations, conditions of approval (COAs), and/or conservation measures and RDFs applied if the mineral estate is developed on BLM-administered lands in that management area, to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities, and in coordination with the landowner.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD-1 (part): Other surface-disturbing and disruptive activities (including Mineral Material Sales) will be allowed with design features to protect breeding, nesting, and brood-rearing GRSG habitat (1,365,000 acres). [GHMA]	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Miles City RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Objective 3: Priority will be given to leasing and development of fluid minerals outside of PHMA and GHMA. When analyzing leasing and authorizing development of fluid mineral resources in PHMA and GHMA, and subject to applicable stipulations for the conservation of GRSG, priority will be given to development in non-habitat areas first and then in the least suitable habitat for GRSG. The implementation of these priorities will be subject to valid existing rights and any applicable law or regulation, including, but not limited to, 30 United States Code (U.S.C.) 226(p) and 43 CFR, Part 3162.3-1(h).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Objective 4: Where a proposed fluid mineral development on an existing lease could adversely affect GRSG populations or habitat, the BLM will work with the lessees, operators, or other proponents to avoid, minimize and mitigate adverse impacts to the extent compatible with lessees' rights to drill and produce fluid mineral resources. The BLM will work with the lessees, operators, or other proponent in developing an application for permit to drill (APD) for the lease to avoid and minimize impacts on GRSG or its habitat and will ensure that the best information about the GRSG and its habitat informs and helps to guide development of such Federal leases.	No change proposed.
MD 3 (part): PHMA is managed according to the following prescriptions: Oil and gas leasing is open and surface occupancy and use is prohibited within sage grouse priority areas (NSO (1,329,000 acres).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD-1 (part): Oil and gas leasing is open and surface occupancy and use is prohibited within 0.6 miles of the perimeter of leks (NSO) (61,000 acres).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Miles City RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 3 (part): PHMA is managed according to the following prescriptions: No waivers or modifications to a fluid mineral lease no-surface occupancy stipulation will be granted. The AO may grant an exception to a fluid mineral lease no-surface occupancy stipulation only where the proposed action: i. Will not have direct, indirect, or cumulative effects on GRSG or its habitat; or, ii. Is proposed to be undertaken as an alternative to a similar action occurring on a nearby parcel, and will provide a clear conservation gain to GRSG. Any exceptions to this lease stipulation may be approved by the AO only with the concurrence of the State Director. The AO may not grant an exception unless the applicable state wildlife agency, the USFWS, and the BLM unanimously find that the proposed action satisfied (i) or (ii). Such finding shall initially be made by a team of one field biologist or other GRSG expert from each respective agency. In the event the initial finding is not unanimous, the finding may be elevated to the appropriate BLM State Director, USFWS State Ecological Services Director, and state wildlife agency head for final resolution. In the event their finding is not unanimous, the exception will not be granted. Approved exceptions will be made publically available at least quarterly.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD 1 (part): Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities will be allowed with required design features to minimize disturbance to GRSG habitat (87,000 acres). -Oil and gas leasing is open and surface occupancy and use is subject to design features, to minimize disturbance to GRSG habitat in the Cedar Creek Area (CSU) (22,000 acres). -In the West Decker (11,000 acres) and South Carter Area (164,000 acres) oil and gas leasing is open and surface occupancy and use is prohibited (NSO).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Decisions: Solid Leasable Minerals	
Action MR-3: At the time an application for a new coal lease or lease modification is submitted to the BLM, the BLM will determine whether the lease application area is "unsuitable" for all or certain coal mining methods pursuant to 43 CFR, Part 3461.5. PHMA is essential habitat for maintaining GRSG for purposes of the suitability criteria set forth at 43 CFR, Part 3461.5(o)(1).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Miles City RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions: Mineral Materials	
MD 3 (part): PHMA is managed according to the following prescriptions: PHMA are closed to new mineral material sales. However, these areas remain “open” to free use permits and the expansion of existing active pits, only if the following criteria are met: -The activity is within the PHMA BSU and area disturbance cap. -The activity is subject to the provisions set forth in the mitigation framework (Appendix F, GRSG Regional Mitigation Strategy). -All applicable required design features are applied; and (if applicable) the activity is permissible under the specific subregional screening criteria.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
Management Decisions: Recreation	
Management Direction REC-I: In PHMA, do not construct new recreation facilities (e.g., campgrounds, trails, trailheads, and staging areas) unless the development will have a net conservation gain to GRSG habitat (such as concentrating recreation, diverting use away from important areas, etc.), or unless the development is required for visitor health and safety or resource protection	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management	
Objective 7: The BLM will strive to complete travel management planning using a developed strategy that sets time frames and prioritizes Travel Management Areas (TMAs). TMAs within the priority GRSG habitat area will strive to be prioritized and completed as funding and staffing allows.	No change proposed.

Miles City RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 1: On BLM administered surface, including PHMA and GHMA, temporary closures will be considered in accordance with 43 CFR subpart 8364 (Closures and Restrictions); 43 CFR subpart 8351 (Designated National Area); 43 CFR subpart 6302 (Use of Wilderness Areas, Prohibited Acts, and Penalties); 43 CFR subpart 8341 (Conditions of Use). Temporary closure or restriction orders under these authorities are enacted at the discretion of the AO to resolve management conflicts and protect persons, property, and public lands and resources. Where an AO determines that OHVs are causing or will cause considerable adverse effects upon soil, vegetation, wildlife, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, historical resources, threatened or endangered species, wilderness suitability, other authorized uses, or other resources, the affected areas shall be immediately closed to the type(s) of vehicle causing the adverse effect until the adverse effects are eliminated and measures implemented to prevent recurrence. (43 CFR, Part 8341.2) A closure or restriction order should be considered only after other management strategies and alternatives have been explored. The duration of temporary closure or restriction orders should be limited to 24 months or less; however, certain situations may require longer closures and/or iterative temporary closures. This may include closure of routes or areas.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Livestock Grazing	
MD LG-4: The NEPA analysis for renewals and modifications of livestock grazing permits/leases that include lands within PHMA will include specific management thresholds based on GRSG Habitat Objectives Table and Land Health Standards (43 CFR, Part 4180.2) and one or more defined responses that will allow the authorizing officer to make adjustments to livestock grazing that have already been subjected to NEPA analysis.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG-3: The BLM will prioritize (1) the review of grazing permits/leases, in particular to determine if modification is necessary prior to renewal, and (2) the processing of grazing permits/leases in PHMA. In setting workload priorities, precedence will be given to existing permits/leases in these areas not meeting Land Health Standards, with focus on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows. The BLM may use other criteria for prioritization to respond to urgent natural resource concerns (ex., fire) and legal obligations.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD-5: Allotments within SFA, followed by those within PHMA, and focusing on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows, will be prioritized for field checks to help ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the grazing permits. Field checks can include monitoring for actual use, utilization, and use supervision.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Miles City RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 1: Where deemed effective, water developments will be managed to reduce the spread of West Nile virus (see Appendix C, GRSG Required Design Features).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Direction 6: At the time a permittee or lessee voluntarily relinquishes a permit or lease, the BLM will consider whether the public lands where that permitted use was authorized should remain available for livestock grazing or be used for other resource management objectives, such as reserve common allotments or fire breaks. This does not apply to or impact grazing preference transfers, which are addressed in 43 CFR 4110.2-3.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Table 2. Miles City Habitat Objectives for GRSG

Attribute	Indicator	Desired Condition	References
BREEDING, NESTING AND EARLY BROOD-REARING (Seasonal Use Period March 1-June 15)			
Lek Security	Proximity of trees	.65–Km ² (.388 miles) avoidance of coniferous habitats	Doherty 2008
	Proximity of sagebrush to leks	Adjacent protective sagebrush cover within 328 ft. (100 m) of an occupied lek	Stiver et al. 2015
Cover	Sagebrush canopy cover	5-25%	Herman–Brunson 2007 Swanson 2009 Doherty et al. 2010 Hagen et al. 2007 Doherty et al. 2011 Foster et al. 2014 Wright and Wegner 2008
	Sagebrush height	6-31 inches (15-50cm)	Swanson 2009 Doherty et al. 2011 Schroeder et al. 1999 Holloran et al. 2005
	Predominant sagebrush shape	Predominately spreading shape	Stiver et al. 2015
	Perennial grass cover (such as western wheatgrass)	≥10%	Doherty et al. 2010 Hagen et al. 2007 Doherty et al. 2011 Holloran et al. 2005
	Perennial grass and forb height (includes residual grasses)	Adequate nest cover based on ecological site potential and seasonal precipitation; 4.4-11.3 inches (11.4-29 cm)	Doherty et al. 2014
	Perennial forb canopy cover	≥3%	Doherty et al. 2010 Hagen et al. 2007 Doherty et al. 2011 Holloran et al. 2005

Attribute	Indicator	Desired Condition	References
BROOD-REARING/SUMMER (Seasonal Use Period June 16-October 31)			
Cover	Sagebrush canopy cover	5-25%	Herman–Brunson 2007 Swanson 2009 Doherty et al. 2010 Hagen et al. 2007 Doherty et al. 2011 Foster et al. 2014
	Sagebrush height	6-31 inches (15-50cm)	Doherty et al. 2011 Foster et al. 2014 Schroeder et al. 1999 Holloran et al. 2005
	Perennial grass canopy cover and forbs	≥10%	Doherty et al. 2010 Hagen et al. 2007 Doherty et al. 2011 Holloran et al. 2005
	Riparian areas/mesic meadows	Proper Functioning Condition	BLM 1997 Prichard et al. 1999 Prichard 1998
	Upland and riparian perennial forb availability	Preferred forbs are common with several preferred species present.	Stiver et al. 2015 Doherty et al. 2011
WINTER (Seasonal Use Period November 1-February 28)			
Cover and Food	Sagebrush canopy cover above snow	>10%	Swanson 2009 Foster et al. 2014 Schroeder et al. 1999
	Sagebrush height above snow	6-31 inches (15-50cm)	Doherty et al. 2011 Schroeder et al. 1999

2.8.2 Relevant Appendices

The following table shows which appendices from the 2015 plan have management direction that may change through this RMP amendment. The 2015 Appendices can be found on [the Miles City RMP ePlanning website](#).

ARMPA Appendix Name	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
A: Approved RMP Maps	Yes
B: GRSG Conservation Buffer	Yes
C: GRSG Required Design Features	Yes
D: GRSG Monitoring Framework	Yes
E: GRSG Disturbance Cap	Yes
F: GRSG Regional Mitigation Strategy	Yes
G: Minerals Stipulations	Yes
H: Adaptive Management Strategy for GRSG Habitat Management	Yes
I: Air Resources and Climate	No
J: Fish, Aquatic and Wildlife Habitat Including Special Status Species	No
K: Livestock Grazing	No
L: Mitigation Measures and Conservation Actions	No
M: Monitoring	No
N: Reclamation	No
O: Recreation	No
P: Special Designation Areas	No
Q: Biological Opinion	No

Appendix 2.9

Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument RMP

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2.9 UPPER MISSOURI RIVER BREAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT RMP

This appendix presents the approved RMP revision language from the record of decision for the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument RMP that relate to GRSG management. The table below notes which goals, objectives, appendices, and management decisions/actions have a potential to change as a result of the current planning effort and if so, under which alternatives changes are being considered. Note that any references to tables and appendices are to those applicable RMP appendices that are listed in **Section 2.9.2** of this appendix.

2.9.1 Existing GRSG RMP Management – UMRBNM RMP

Table 1. Summary of Goals, Objectives, and Management Actions in UMRBNM RMP

UMRBNM Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions: Vegetation Communities	
The BLM will consider mechanical treatment as the primary method and prescribed fire as a secondary method to remove conifers encroaching on sage-grouse habitat, except where forested habitat is limited.	No change proposed.
The BLM will promote sage planting, where appropriate, on project areas (such as sites where sagebrush has been removed for crested wheat grass conversions) occurring within sage-grouse habitats and will reclaim and/or reseed areas disturbed by treatments.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Resources	
Sage-grouse management will utilize the 2005 Management Plan and Conservation Strategies for Sage-Grouse in Montana – Final for overall guidance and direction.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Decisions: Habitat Objectives	
The BLM will manage for a healthy diverse vegetative community with a variety of forbs, and maintain big sagebrush and silver sage on sage-grouse wintering and nesting areas with a canopy cover of 15-30% and an average height of 12 inches.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Decisions: Disturbance	
Greater Sage-Grouse – The BLM will not authorize new surface-disturbing or disruptive activities within 1/4 mile of active leks, nor will it allow new surface-disturbing or disruptive activities within nesting areas (a 2-mile radius of an active lek) from March 1 to June 15. The BLM will not authorize any new surface-disturbing or disruptive activities in active sage-grouse winter habitat from December 1 to March 31.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

UMRBNM Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
The following mitigating measures will be applied to new surface-disturbing or disruptive activities for identified/important wildlife habitat in the Monument. Mitigating measures will be applied on a case-by-case basis during activity level planning after an on-site evaluation of the project area indicates the presence of a species. Exceptions to these mitigation measures may be granted by the authorized officer if an environmental review demonstrates there would be no adverse impacts, habitat for the species is not present in the area, or portions of the area can be occupied without affecting a particular species. Exceptions will also be considered for interim and final reclamation.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Decisions: Wildland Fire Ecology and Management	
The appropriate management response to all wildland fires will be based on firefighter and public safety and resource values on BLM, state, and private land while considering the natural role of fire. Fires could be managed with less than full suppression efforts and, in most cases, allowed to burn to natural barriers or roads. The cost of suppression will also be considered. Resource values, such as sage-grouse habitat, will be protected during wildland fire suppression through the knowledge of resource advisors assigned to wildland fire incidents and/or information on the location of critical resource areas available to incident commanders; however, protection for resource values will be secondary to life safety and property values.	No change proposed.

UMRBNM Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions: Lands and Realty	
The BLM's goal is to provide reasonable access for the public and for private landowners, as well as for the administrative needs and authorized uses of industry and government agencies. Under the Proclamation, all federal lands and interests in lands are "hereby appropriated and withdrawn from all forms of entry, location, selection, sale, or leasing or other disposition under the public land laws . . . and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing, other than by exchange that furthers the protective purposes of the monument. The establishment of this monument is subject to valid existing rights. . . . Lands and interests in lands within the proposed monument not owned by the United States shall be reserved as a part of the monument upon acquisition of title thereto by the United States." In addition to the seven utility and transportation corridors that cross the Missouri River, the Klabzuba pipeline on the south side of the river will also be a designated corridor (Table 2.5). The corridor for the Klabzuba pipeline will only be on the south side of the river. The pipeline follows the McClelland/Stafford Ferry corridor on the north side of the river. [Language about corridors is general, but included here for reference. RMP goes forward with specifics about each corridor.]	No change proposed.
Avoidance areas for ROWs include the scenic sections of the UMNWSR, the Bodmer Landscapes, the Cow Creek ACEC, cultural/historic sites, riparian and wetland areas, areas containing unique geologic formations, areas considered unsuitable due to erosion and slope, and sage-grouse seasonal habitat where impacts could not be mitigated or effectively controlled.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Applications for commercial wind energy systems, solar energy systems and communication sites will not be considered.	No change proposed.

UMRBNM Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions: Fluid Mineral Resources	
<i>The BLM's goal is to provide reasonable oil and gas exploration and development on existing leased land without diminishing the objects of the Monument.</i> The Proclamation does not allow new oil and gas leases in the Monument. The 43 federal oil and gas leases in the Monument are considered to have valid existing rights based upon the Proclamation, wherein it states "The establishment of this monument is subject to valid existing rights. The Secretary of Interior shall manage development on existing oil and gas leases within the monument, subject to valid existing rights, so as not to create any new impacts that would interfere with the proper care and management of the objects protected by this proclamation." The existing leases are also in compliance with their lease terms and conditions.	No change proposed.
[RMP includes language about managing O&G leases in general with consideration for the objects of the monument: Through the environmental review process, the BLM will determine the potential impacts of oil and gas operations and mitigation measures to avoid interference with the proper care and management of the objects protected by the Monument. If the analysis and documentation indicate that a proposal may have impacts that are not in conformance with the Proclamation, regulation, BMPs or existing resource management plans, the BLM will work with the applicant to find alternatives or modifications to the proposal that will minimize such impacts through special permit conditions, consistent with the applicant's rights under applicable laws, regulations and stipulations. See the RMP for specific language.]	No change proposed.

UMRBNM Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Conditions of Approval In addition to the oil and gas lease stipulations (Appendix H), reasonable conditions of approval, under BLM's authority to protect the objects in the Monument, will be applied to APDs. The conditions of approval will apply to all the oil and gas lease acreage (42,805 acres) in the Monument. The conditions of approval will be applied to the APD after an onsite evaluation indicates the presence of the specific resource and after considering the waivers, exceptions and modifications listed in Appendix H. The current APD review process will be utilized, which includes a 30-day posting period for public review of the proposal. The current stipulations (Form 3109-1) will apply to the portions of five of the 12 West HiLine leases that are outside the Monument (2,454 acres). Seasonal or distance restrictions will be placed on oil and gas activities to protect sage-grouse nesting areas and winter habitat, active ferruginous hawk nests, big game winter range, and bighorn sheep distribution and bighorn sheep lambing areas.	No change proposed.
<i>Greater Sage-Grouse Nesting Zone</i> – Surface-disturbing or disruptive activities will be prohibited from March 1 to June 15 in sage-grouse nesting habitat within 2 miles of a lek. Travel on identified designated roads may include these timing restrictions or limited site visits. <i>Greater Sage-Grouse Winter Habitat</i> – Surface-disturbing or disruptive activities will be prohibited from December 1 to March 31 within winter habitat for sage-grouse. This condition will not apply to the operation and maintenance of production facilities. Travel on identified designated roads may include these timing restrictions or limited site visits. <i>Greater Sage-Grouse Leks</i> – Surface-disturbing or disruptive activities will be prohibited within 1/4 mile of active sage-grouse leks.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Travel on identified designated roads will be restricted to the minimal vehicle size and type needed for the job. Due to resource issues, timing restrictions may be applied to site visits. For construction and heavy trucks related to production, equipment that exceeds 49dB will be restricted from being within 2 miles of sage-grouse leks between 4:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. and from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. between March 1 and June 15.	No change proposed.

UMRBNM Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions: Livestock Grazing Grazing permittees will avoid the placement of salt or mineral supplements near leks during the breeding season (March 1 to June 15). The placement of salt or mineral supplements by other entities will not be allowed. Supplemental winter feeding will not be allowed on sage-grouse winter habitat and around leks. Concentrations of livestock near leks or winter habitat can disturb or displace sage-grouse. Therefore, concentrations of livestock on leks or other key sage-grouse habitats could be avoided by using conservative stocking levels*, locating salt or other supplements away from leks or winter habitat, adjusting grazing seasons and locating water facilities where they would not jeopardize habitat. *Conservative Stocking Level Conservative stocking level is a stocking rate that will result in a moderate utilization level (or less) by livestock at the end of the grazing period for the year. A conservative stocking level will be established based on resource management goals including maintaining healthy vegetation; acceptable livestock performance; expected normal weather; and annual plant production consistent with the Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.	
	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Table 2. UMRBNM Habitat Objectives for GRSG

Attribute	Indicator	Desired Condition	Reference
BREEDING, NESTING, AND EARLY BROOD REARING (Seasonal Use Period: March 1 to June 30)			
Lek Security	Proximity of trees	Trees or other tall structures are not within line of sight of lek and absent or uncommon within 3 kilometers (km) (1.9 miles) of the lek.	Connelly et al. 2000
	Collision Risks	Fences and other structures that pose a high collision risk are absent or mitigated with visual markers.	Connelly et al. 2000. Stevens 2011
	Proximity of sagebrush to leks	Adjacent protective sagebrush cover within 100 meters (m; 328 feet [ft.]) of an active lek.	Stiver et al. 2015
Cover	Sagebrush cover	10-25%	Berkeley et al. 2013 Connelly et al. 2000 Doherty et al. 2010 Lane 2005 Hagen et al. 2007 Sant et al. 2014
	Sagebrush height	40-80 centimeters (cm) (15.7-31.5 inches) individual sagebrush available within stand (for nesting) with a variety of heights (including those <40 cm [<15.7 inches]).	Connelly et al. 2000 Lane 2005
	Predominant sagebrush shape	Spreading	Stiver et al. 2015
	Perennial grass cover (such as bluebunch wheatgrass, green needlegrass and western wheatgrass)	≥15%	Connelly et al. 2000 Lane 2005 Sant et al. 2014
	Perennial grass and forb height (includes residual grasses)	≥18 cm (≥7.1 inches)	Berkeley et al. 2013 Connelly et al. 2000 Doherty et al. 2014 Hagen et al. 2007 Taylor et al. 2012
	Perennial forb cover	≥10%	Connelly et al. 2000 Sant et al. 2014
LATE BROOD-REARING/SUMMER (Seasonal Use Period: July 1 to October 31)			
Cover	Sagebrush cover	5-25%	Connelly et al. 2000 Lane 2005 Hagen et al. 2007 Sant et al. 2014
	Sagebrush height	40-80 cm (15.7-31.5 inches) individual sagebrush available within stand (for nesting) with a variety of heights (including those <40 cm [<15.7 inches]).	Connelly et al. 2000 Lane 2005
	Perennial grass and forb cover	≥25%	Connelly et al. 2000 Hagen et al. 2007 Sant et al. 2014
	Riparian areas/mesic meadows	80% or more of PHMA in Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) or higher.	Prichard et al. 1999 Schroeder et al. 1999 USDI BLM 1997
	Upland and riparian perennial forb availability	Preferred forbs are common with several preferred species present	Connelly et al. 2000 Stiver et al. 2015

Attribute	Indicator	Desired Condition	Reference
WINTER (Seasonal Use Period: November 1 to February 28)			
Cover and Food	Sagebrush cover	≥10%	Wallestad 1975 Connelly et al. 2000 Sant et al. 2014
	Sagebrush height	≥25cm (≥9.8 inches)	Connelly et al. 2000.

2.9.2 Relevant Appendices

The following table shows which appendices from the 2008 plan have management direction that may change through this RMP amendment. The appendices can be found on [the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument RMP ePlanning website](#).

ARMPA Appendix Name	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
A: Federal and Montana Ambient Air Quality Standards	No
B: Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management	No
C: Best Management Practices	Yes
D: Cultural Resource Use Categories	No
E: Watershed Planning Process	No
F: Grazing Allotments	No
G: Visitor Use Standards and Indicators	No
H: Oil and Gas	Yes
I: Wildlife Mitigation Noise Levels	No

Appendix 2.10

Montana and Dakotas Alternative 1 and 2 Oil and Gas Lease Stipulations

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2.10 MONTANA AND DAKOTAS OIL AND GAS LEASE STIPULATIONS (ALTERNATIVES 1 AND 2)

The table below presents the oil and gas lease stipulations for Montana and the Dakotas that apply to GRSG, including their ID number, stipulation text, and office in which the stipulation applies.

ID #	Stipulation	Office
LN 14-11	GREATER SAGE-GROUSE HABITAT The lease may, in part or in total, contain important greater sage grouse habitats as identified by the BLM, either currently or prospectively. The operator may be required to implement specific measures to reduce impacts of oil and gas operations on the greater sage grouse populations and habitat quality. Such measures shall be developed during the application for permit to drill on-site and environmental review process and will be consistent with the lease rights granted.	All
LN 14-37	GREATER SAGE-GROUSE HABITAT CONSERVATION The lessee/operator is given notice that prior to project-specific approval, the authorized officer may consider compensatory mitigation measures proffered by a project proponent, or compensatory mitigation requested or required by a state plan, program, or authorization. Any state required mitigation may be incorporated as a proposed design feature for a proposed project (Instructional Memorandum No. 2019-018). For projects in Montana, lessee/operators may be required to demonstrate they have submitted their project to the Montana Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Program for review, and have incorporated any State program requirements into their project proposal in any designated sage-grouse habitat. The objectives of these requirements are to avoid, minimize, or compensate for unavoidable impacts associated with oil and gas development in order to provide a net conservation gain, which is a benefit or gain above baseline conditions when the development occurs within Greater Sage-Grouse habitat as specified in the Record of Decision for the Field Office's Approved Resource Management Plan (Sept, 2015). Site-specific GRSG habitat conservation, mitigation, or compensation requirements would be identified during the BLM environmental review process and would be developed into the project proposal or as terms and conditions of the subsequent approval.	Billings HiLine Miles City South Dakota North Dakota
LN 14-44	GREATER SAGE-GROUSE The lease may in part, or in total contain important Greater Sage-Grouse habitats as identified by the BLM, either currently or prospectively. The operator may be required to implement specific measures to reduce effects of oil and gas operations on the Greater Sage-Grouse populations and habitat quality. Such measures shall be developed during the application for permit to drill on-site and environmental review process and will be consistent with the lease rights granted.	Lewistown
CSU 12-30	SAGE-GROUSE GENERAL HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREAS Surface occupancy and use within 2 miles of the perimeter of a lek active within the past 5 years may be restricted or prohibited. Prior to such activities, a plan to mitigate impacts to breeding or nesting sage- grouse; or breeding, nesting, or brood rearing habitat will be prepared by the proponent and implemented upon approval by the AO.	Miles City
CSU 12-31	SAGE-GROUSE HABITAT – CEDAR CREEK RESTORATION HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREA Surface occupancy and use would be allowed with design features to minimize disturbance to sage- grouse habitat.	Miles City

ID #	Stipulation	Office
CSU 12-40	GREATER SAGE-GROUSE GENERAL HABITAT Surface use prohibited within 2 miles of a lek. Surface disturbing and disruptive activities within 2 miles of a lek will be avoided unless the project proponent can clearly demonstrate that the impacts can be adequately mitigated and conservation actions or needed design features are included and the goals of this plan not compromised.	South Dakota
CSU 12-41	GREATER SAGE-GROUSE GENERAL HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREAS (GHMA_s) – UNDERGROUND UTILITY (POWER AND TRANSMISSION) LINES All new utility and power lines that can be safely buried will be buried within 2 miles of sage-grouse leks and within sage-grouse winter range. When burial of power lines is not possible, above ground lines will be located and designed to minimize impacts of predation, collision, and other associated stressors to sage-grouse. Existing overhead lines within 2 miles of leks and within sage-grouse winter range will be evaluated for threats to sage-grouse and if necessary, modified to reduce the threat. If modification will not likely be effective, the overhead line may be relocated. Any requirements for modification or relocation of existing overhead lines will be subject to valid existing rights.	South Dakota

ID #	Stipulation	Office
CSU 12-46	GREATER SAGE-GROUSE GENERAL HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREA (GHMA) All identified Greater Sage-Grouse habitat within GHMA is subject to the following operating constraints: Maintain Greater Sage-Grouse habitat to promote movement and genetic diversity of Greater Sage- Grouse populations To minimize the impacts of surface disturbing/disruptive activities and ensure maintenance of habitat for sustainable populations of Greater Sage-Grouse within GHMA, surface disturbing and disruptive activities are subject to the following requirements. a) Surface disturbing/disruptive activities will prevent or minimize disturbance to Greater Sage-Grouse or their habitat. Except as identified above or during emergency situations, activities will not compromise the habitat. b) Continuous noise (related to long-term operations and/or activities) will be no greater than 49 decibels at 1/4 miles from the perimeter of the lek. c) Temporary noise (related to installation, maintenance, one-time use, emergency operations, etc.) exceeding 49 decibels at 1/4 miles from the perimeter of a lek or surface disturbing/disruptive activities may be allowed, but only from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. between March 15 and May 15. d) Manage water developments to reduce the spread of West Nile virus within sage-grouse habitat areas. e) Site and/or minimize linear ROW to reduce disturbance to sagebrush habitats. f) Maximize placement of new utility developments (power lines, pipelines, etc.) and transportation routes in existing utility or transportation corridors. g) Power lines will be buried, eliminated, designed, or sited in a manner which does not impact sage- grouse. h) Placement of other high profile structures, exceeding 10 feet in height, will be eliminated, designed, or sited in a manner which does not impact sage-grouse. i) Remote monitoring of production facilities must be utilized, and all permit applications must contain a plan to reduce the frequency of vehicle use. j) Maximize the area of interim reclamation on long-term access roads and well pads including reshaping, topsoiling and revegetating cut and fill slopes. k) Restore disturbed areas at final reclamation to pre-disturbance conditions or desired plant community. l) Permanent (longer than 2 months) structures which create movement must be designed or sited to minimize impacts to sage-grouse. m) Consider use of off-site mitigation, (e.g. creation of sagebrush habitat, purchase conservation easements, or buying down grazing) with proponent dollars to offset habitat losses. n) Consider creation of a "Mitigation Trust Account" when impacts cannot be avoided, minimized, or effectively mitigated through other means. If approved by the BLM, the proponent may contribute funding to maintain habitat function based on the estimated cost of habitat treatments or other mitigation needed to maintain the functions of impacted habitats. Off-site mitigation should only be considered when no feasible options are available to adequately mitigate within and immediately adjacent to the impacted site, or when the off- site location will provide more effective mitigation of the impact than can be achieved on-site	North Dakota

ID #	Stipulation	Office
CSU 12-66	CRUCIAL WINTER RANGE – BIG GAME AND/OR SAGE-GROUSE Prior to surface-disturbing or disruptive activities a plan to maintain functionality of crucial winter range for big game and/or Greater Sage-Grouse will be prepared by the proponent and implemented upon approval by the authorized officer. Within crucial winter range surface-disturbing or disruptive activities will be restricted or prohibited within 6/10 of a mile from any existing surface-disturbing or disruptive activity. The plan shall address how short-term and long-term direct and indirect effects to crucial winter range will be mitigated based on current science and research (Appendix E.5).	HiLine
CSU 12-67	GREATER SAGE-GROUSE NESTING HABITAT (GENERAL HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREAS) Within Greater Sage-Grouse general habitat surface-disturbing or disruptive activities may be restricted or prohibited within 2 miles of Greater Sage-Grouse leks. Prior to surface-disturbing or disruptive activities a plan to maintain functionality of Greater Sage-Grouse habitat will be prepared by the proponent and implemented upon approval by the authorized officer. This plan shall address how short-term and long-term direct and indirect effects to nesting and brood-rearing areas will be mitigated based on current science and research (Appendix E.5).	HiLine
CSU 12-69	GREATER SAGE-GROUSE GENERAL HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREAS (GHMA) In General Habitat Management Areas (GHMA), parcels would be offered for lease subject to Controlled Surface Use restrictions (including RDFs). Activities will be avoided within the following distances from a sage-grouse lek: • linear features (roads) within 3.1 miles of leks. • infrastructure related to energy development within 3.1 miles of leks. • tall structures (e.g., communication or transmission towers, transmission lines) within 2 miles of leks. • low structures (e.g., fences, rangeland structures) within 1.2 miles of leks. • surface disturbance (continuing human activities that alter or remove the natural vegetation) within 3.1 miles of leks. • noise and related disruptive activities including those that do not result in habitat loss (e.g., motorized recreational events) at least 0.25 miles from leks.	Dillon
CSU 12-73	GREATER SAGE-GROUSE GENERAL HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREAS (GHMA_s) Within Greater Sage-Grouse general habitat surface-disturbing or disruptive activities may be restricted or prohibited within 2 miles of Greater Sage-Grouse leks. Prior to surface-disturbing or disruptive activities, a plan to maintain functionality of Greater Sage-Grouse habitat will be prepared by the proponent and implemented upon approval by the authorized officer. This plan shall address how short-term and long-term direct and indirect effects to nesting and brood-rearing areas will be mitigated based on current science and research.	Lewistown
NSO 11-4	GROUSE LEKS No surface occupancy or use is allowed within one-quarter mile of grouse leks.	Butte Dillon
NSO 11-35	SAGE GROUSE STRUTTING GROUNDS No surface occupancy or use is allowed within one-quarter mile of active sage grouse strutting grounds.	North Dakota

ID #	Stipulation	Office
NSO 11-79	SAGE-GROUSE HABITAT – PRIORITY AREAS, WEST DECKER RESTORATION AREA, SOUTH CARTER RESTORATION AREA Surface occupancy and use is prohibited within sage-grouse priority areas, West Decker Restoration area, and South Carter Restoration Area.	Miles City
NSO 11-80	SAGE-GROUSE HABITAT – GENERAL HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREA Surface occupancy and use is prohibited within 6/10 mile of the perimeter of sage-grouse leks.	Miles City
NSO 11-96	GREATER SAGE-GROUSE GENERAL HABITAT LEKS No surface occupancy or use within 6/10 mile from leks.	South Dakota
NSO 11-97	GREATER SAGE-GROUSE CRUCIAL WINTER RANGE Sage-grouse crucial winter range will be managed as a No Surface Occupancy for oil and gas development and exploration.	South Dakota
NSO 11-98	GREATER SAGE-GROUSE PRIORITY HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREAS (PHMAs) Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs will be managed as No Surface Occupancy and Use (127,735 surface and 412,822 oil and gas subsurface mineral acres.) These areas will be open to oil and gas leasing with no surface occupancy stipulation. All sage-grouse habitat that is not part of PHMAs will be managed as GHMA as noted in Figure 1-2.	South Dakota
NSO 11-99	GREATER SAGE-GROUSE WINTER RANGE IN PRIORITY HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREAS (PHMAs) Sage-grouse crucial winter range will be managed as a No Surface Occupancy for oil and gas development and exploration.	South Dakota
NSO 11-111	GREATER SAGE-GROUSE PRIORITY HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREA (PHMA) Surface occupancy and use is prohibited within Greater Sage-Grouse PHMA.	North Dakota
NSO 11-127	GREATER SAGE-GROUSE PRIORITY HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREAS (PHMAs) To protect Greater Sage-grouse, a priority species for management, surface occupancy and use is prohibited for oil and gas exploration and development within Greater Sage-grouse Priority Habitat Management Areas (PHMAs).	Billings
NSO 11-128	GREATER SAGE-GROUSE GENERAL HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREAS To protect general habitat areas for Greater Sage-grouse breeding activities, surface occupancy and use is prohibited for oil and gas exploration and development within 0.6 mile of the perimeter of Greater Sage-grouse leks.	Billings
NSO 11-129	GREATER SAGE-GROUSE RESTORATION AREAS To protect restoration areas for Greater Sage-grouse breeding activities, surface occupancy and use is prohibited for oil and gas exploration and development within 0.6 mile of the perimeter of Greater Sage-grouse leks.	Billings
NSO 11-136	CRUCIAL WINTER RANGE Surface occupancy and use is prohibited for oil and gas exploration and development in crucial winter range for antelope, elk, moose, bighorn sheep, mule deer, white-tailed deer, and Greater Sage-grouse.	Billings
NSO 11-141	SAGEBRUSH FOCAL AREA Surface occupancy and use is prohibited within the Sagebrush Focal Area.	HiLine
NSO 11-151	GREATER SAGE-GROUSE LEKS (GENERAL HABITAT AREAS) Surface occupancy and use is prohibited within 0.6 miles of Greater Sage-Grouse leks. This stipulation does not apply within the boundaries of the Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Management Area.	HiLine

ID #	Stipulation	Office
NSO 11-152	GREATER SAGE-GROUSE PRIORITY HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREAS (PHMA) Surface occupancy and use is prohibited within Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Management Area and the Grassland Bird/Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Management Area.	HiLine
NSO 11-159	GREATER SAGE-GROUSE PRIORITY HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREAS (PHMA) Priority Habitat Management Areas (PHMA) outside of Sagebrush Focal Areas would be open to mineral leasing and development subject to NSO with a limited Exception .	Dillon
NSO 11-171	CRUCIAL WINTER RANGE Surface occupancy and use is prohibited in crucial winter range for the following BLM priority species for management: • bighorn sheep • elk • greater sage-grouse • moose • mule deer • pronghorn • whitetail deer	Lewistown
NSO 11-181	SAGEBRUSH FOCAL AREA Surface occupancy and use is prohibited within the Sagebrush Focal Area (SFA)	Lewistown
NSO 11-182	GREATER SAGE-GROUSE PRIORITY HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREAS (PHMAs) To protect greater sage-grouse, a priority species for management, surface occupancy and use is prohibited for oil and gas exploration and development within greater sage-grouse Priority Habitat Management Areas (PHMAs).	Lewistown
NSO 11-183	GREATER SAGE-GROUSE LEKS IN GENERAL HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREAS (GHMAs) Surface occupancy and use is prohibited within 0.6 miles of the perimeter of greater sage-grouse leks in general habitat management areas.	Lewistown
TL 13-6	BROOD-BEARING HABITAT No surface use is allowed in nesting and early brood-rearing habitat (defined as within three miles of Leks) during the following time period: March 1 through June 30	Dillon
TL 13-14	SAGE GROUSE WINTER AND SPRING RANGE No surface use is allowed from December 1 through May 15 within winter and spring range for Sage Grouse. This stipulation does not apply to operation and maintenance of production facilities.	Butte Dillon
TL 13-17	STRUTTING GROUNDS No surface use is allowed within two miles of active strutting grounds during the following time period: March 1 to June 15. This stipulation does not apply to the operation and maintenance of production facilities.	North Dakota
TL 13-30	EARLY BROOD REARING HABITAT No surface use is allowed from March 1 through June 30 in nesting and early brood rearing habitat (defined as within three miles of Leks). This stipulation does not apply to operation and maintenance of production facilities unless the findings of analysis demonstrate the continued need for such mitigation and that less stringent project- specific mitigation measures would be insufficient.	Butte

ID #	Stipulation	Office
TL 13-40	SAGE-GROUSE NEST AREAS (RESTORATION AREAS AND GENERAL HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREAS) Surface use is prohibited from March 1 through June 30 within 3 miles of sage grouse leks. This stipulation does not apply to operation and maintenance of production facilities.	Billings
TL 13-43	GREATER SAGE-GROUSE WINTER RANGE Surface occupancy and use is prohibited from December 1 through March 31 in Greater Sage-Grouse winter range.	HiLine
TL 13-48	WINTER RANGE – BIG GAME AND GREATER SAGE-GROUSE Surface occupancy and use is prohibited from December 1 through May 15 in big game winter range.	HiLine

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Appendix 2.11

North Dakota RMP Amendment

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2.1.1 NORTH DAKOTA RMP AMENDMENT

This appendix presents the GRSG approved RMP amendment language from the 2015 record of decision for the North Dakota RMP Amendment. The North Dakota RMP was not amended in 2019. The table below notes which goals, objectives, appendices, and management decisions/actions have a potential to change as a result of the current planning effort and if so, under which alternatives changes are being considered. Note that any references to tables and appendices are to those applicable 2015 appendices that are listed in **Section 2.11.2** of this appendix.

2.1.1.1 Existing GRSG RMP Management – North Dakota RMP Amendment

Table 1. Summary of Goals, Objectives, and Management Actions in North Dakota 2015 ARMP

North Dakota RMP Amendment	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
<i>Management Decisions: Riparian Areas and Wetlands</i>	
Management Direction LG-I.12: Where riparian and wetland areas are already meeting standards, they will be maintained in that condition or better. Where a site's capability is less than proper functioning condition (PFC), BLM will manage to achieve or move towards capability. • Within PHMA and GHMA, manage wet meadows to maintain a component of perennial forbs with diverse species richness relative to site potential (e.g., reference state) to facilitate brood rearing.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Direction LG-I.13: In PHMA, where riparian areas and wet meadows meet PFC, strive to move towards GRSG habitat objectives within capabilities of the reference state vegetation relative to the ecological site descriptions. • Example: Within PHMA, reduce where necessary hot season grazing on riparian and meadow complexes to promote recovery or maintenance of appropriate vegetation and water quality. Utilize fencing/herding techniques, seasonal use, or livestock distribution changes where necessary to reduce pressure on riparian or wet meadow vegetation used by GRSG in the hot season (summer).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Direction LG-I.14: Authorize new water development for diversion from spring or seep source only when PHMA will be maintained or benefit from the development. This includes developing new water sources for livestock as part of an AMP/Conservation Plan to improve GRSG habitat.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Direction LG-I.15: Analyze springs, seeps and associated pipelines at time of grazing lease renewal to determine if modifications are necessary to maintain the continuity of the predevelopment riparian area within PHMA. Make modifications where necessary, considering impacts on other water uses when such considerations are neutral or beneficial to GRSG.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

North Dakota RMP Amendment	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions: Vegetation Communities	
Objective VEG-I.1: In all PHMA, the desired condition is to maintain a minimum of 70% of lands capable of producing sagebrush with 10 to 30% sagebrush canopy cover. The attributes necessary to sustain these habitats are described in Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health (BLM Tech Ref 1734-6).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Direction VEG-I.1: Remove conifers encroaching into sagebrush habitats. Prioritize treatments closest to occupied GRSG habitats and near occupied leks, and where juniper encroachment is phase 1 or phase 2. Use of site-specific analysis and principles like those included in RMRS-GTR-326: Using resistance and resilience concepts to reduce impacts of invasive annual grasses and altered fire regimes on the sagebrush ecosystem and GRSG: A strategic multi-scale approach (Chambers et al. 2014) and other ongoing modeling efforts to address conifer encroachment will help refine the location for specific priority areas to be treated.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Direction VEG-I.8: Make re-establishment of sagebrush cover and desirable understory plants (relative to ecological site potential) a high priority for restoration efforts in PHMA. Prioritize areas for juniper removal to benefit GRSG habitat.	No change proposed.
Management Direction VEG-I.3: Include GRSG habitat parameters as defined by State of North Dakota Sage-Grouse conservation plans and appropriate local information in habitat restoration objectives. Make meeting these objectives within PHMA the highest restoration priority, along with other priority species habitat.	No change proposed.
Management Direction VEG-I.7: In PHMA, restore native (or desirable) plants and create landscape patterns which most benefit GRSG, as well as other priority species.	No change proposed.
Management Direction VEG-I.4: In PHMA, require use of native seeds for restoration based on availability, adaptation (ecological site potential), and probability of success. Where probability of success or adapted seed availability is low, non-native seeds may be used as long as they support GRSG habitat objectives.	No change proposed.
Management Direction VEG-I.5: Design post restoration management to ensure long-term persistence in PHMA. This could include changes in livestock grazing management, travel management, etc., to achieve and maintain the desired condition of the restoration effort that benefits GRSG.	No change proposed.
Management Direction VEG-I.6: In PHMA, consider potential changes in climate when proposing restoration seedings when using native plants. Consider collection from the warmer component of the species current range when selecting native species.	No change proposed.

North Dakota RMP Amendment	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Management Direction VEG-1.9: In PHMA fire prone areas, where sagebrush seed is required for GRSG habitat restoration, consider establishing seed harvest areas that are managed for seed production and are a priority for protection from outside disturbances.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Resources	
Goal SSS-1: Maintain and/or increase GRSG abundance and distribution by conserving, enhancing, or restoring the sagebrush ecosystem upon which populations depend, in cooperation with other conservation partners.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Objective SSS-1.2: Habitat Delineation: Delineate PHMA to encompass the 100% Breeding Bird Density map: 32,900 BLM surface acres (7% of total PHMA acres). Since mapping 75% of breeding bird density map misses the majority of GRSG habitat in North Dakota, 100% was used. See Map 2-1.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Objective SSS-1.3: Habitat Delineation: Delineate GHMA to encompass the remainder of the habitat: 80 BLM surface acres. See Map 2-1.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Decisions: Habitat Objectives	
[Original language updated through plan maintenance action in 2018] The habitat objectives for GRSG (Table 2.3-2) is a list of indicators, characteristics, and values that describe GRSG seasonal habitat use areas. The BLM used indicator values derived from a synthesis of local and regional GRSG habitat research and data to describe the typical vegetation communities that sage-grouse select. While the habitat objectives are not attainable on every site or every acre within designated GRSG habitat management areas, the values reflect a range of habitat conditions that generally lead to greater survival of individuals within a population. When permitting land use activities, BLM should consider the ecological site potential within designated habitat management areas to validate the habitat conditions achievable for a specific site. The seasonal habitat descriptions in Table 2.3-2 vary across the range of sage-grouse, within a subregion, and between sites. They are not land health standards but are quantitative measures that inform the Special Status Species Habitat Land Health Standard for sage-grouse. These measurable values reflect ecological potential, and may be adjusted based on local factors influencing sage-grouse habitat selection. Local data or recent science may indicate that sage-grouse select for vegetation structure and composition in seasonal habitats not characterized by the values in the habitat objectives table. In these cases, it may be appropriate to adjust the values. Habitat objectives should be evaluated in the context of annual variability in ecological conditions and should not be used singly to determine habitat suitability for sage-grouse. They may be used to demonstrate trends over time, during plan	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

North Dakota RMP Amendment	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
evaluations for effectiveness of sage-grouse conservation, or when identify limiting habitat characteristics for a given area. The indicators, characteristics, values and desired seasonal habitat conditions in the GRSG Plan Habitat Objectives Table are meant to inform the wildlife habitat component of the Land Health Standards evaluation process (LHS, 43 CFR 4180.2), but do not replace rangeland health assessments. Results from the LHS evaluation should be used to support BLM in land use authorization processes and during development of objectives for management actions such as vegetation treatments. BLM land use authorizations will contain terms and conditions regarding the actions needed to achieve or make progress toward achieving habitat objectives and land health standards. The Habitat Objectives Tables are to be used: • To assess habitat suitability for sage-grouse following the BLM policy on sage-grouse habitat assessments • To evaluate land use plan effectiveness for sage-grouse conservation, and • As a basis to develop measurable project objectives for actions in BLM-designated GRSG Habitat Management areas when considered alongside land health standards, ecological potential and local information. References: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. 2001. Rangeland health standards handbook H-4180-1. https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/uploads/Media_Library_BLM_Policy_h4180-1.pdf	
Management Decisions: Disturbance	
Objective SSS-1.1: Protect PHMA from anthropogenic disturbances that will reduce distribution or abundance of GRSG. Manage PHMA so that discrete anthropogenic disturbances cover less than 3% of the total GRSG habitat.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Direction SSS-1.1: Protect PHMA from anthropogenic disturbances that will reduce distribution or abundance of GRSG. See Appendix E, Greater Sage-Grouse Disturbance Caps, of the 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMPA/ROD (BLM 2015a). In undertaking BLM management directions, and consistent with valid and existing rights and applicable law in authorizing third-party actions, the BLM will apply the lek buffer-distances identified in the US Geological Survey Report Conservation Buffer Distance Estimates for Greater Sage-Grouse—A Review (Open File Report 2014-1239) in accordance with Appendix B, Applying Lek Buffer Distances When Approving Actions, of the 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMPA/ROD (BLM 2015a).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

North Dakota RMP Amendment	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Direction SSS-1.2: If the 3% anthropogenic disturbance cap is exceeded on lands (regardless of land ownership) within GRSG PHMA in any given BSU (see Figure 2-2, North Dakota and South Dakota GRSG Biologically Significant Unit and Priority Habitat Management Areas [Appendix A of the 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMPA/ROD; BLM 2015a]), then no further discrete anthropogenic disturbances (subject to applicable laws and regulations, such as the 1872 hard rock mining law, valid existing rights, etc.) will be permitted by BLM within GRSG PHMA in any given BSU until the disturbance has been reduced to less than the cap. (BSU for this Approved RMPA is the summary of all the PHMA within a GRSG population as delineated in the COT report.)	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Direction SSS-1.4: Subject to applicable laws and regulations and valid existing rights, if the average density of one energy and mining facility per 640 acres (the density cap) is exceeded on all lands (regardless of land ownership) in the PHMA within a proposed project analysis area, then no further disturbance from energy or mining facilities will be permitted by BLM: (1) until disturbance in the proposed project analysis area has been reduced to maintain the limit under the cap; or (2) unless the energy or mining facility is co-located into an existing disturbed area.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Direction SSS-1.5: Implement Regional Mitigation Strategy (Appendix F, Regional Mitigation Strategy, of the 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMPA/ROD [BLM 2015a]).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.
Management Decisions: Wildland Fire Ecology and Management	
Management Direction FIRE-1.7: Follow the most current BMPs/RDFs for fire and fuels (Appendix C, Required Design Features, of the 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMPA/ROD [BLM 2015a]).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Direction FIRE-1.1: In PHMA, design and implement fuels treatments with an emphasis on protecting existing sagebrush ecosystems. - Do not reduce sagebrush canopy cover to less than 15% unless a fuels management objective requires additional reduction in sagebrush cover to meet strategic protection of PHMA and conserve habitat quality for the species. Closely evaluate the benefits of the fuel break against the additional loss of sagebrush cover in future NEPA documents. - Apply appropriate seasonal restrictions for implementing fuels management treatments according to the type of seasonal habitats present in a priority area. - If prescribed fire is used in GRSG habitat, the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan will address: - why alternative techniques were not selected as a viable options;	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

North Dakota RMP Amendment	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
– how GRSG goals and objectives will be met by its use; – how the COT report objectives will be addressed and met; – a risk assessment to address how potential threats to GRSG habitat will be minimized. • Prescribed fire as a vegetation or fuels treatment shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Prescribed fire can be used to meet specific fuels objectives that will protect GRSG habitat in PHMA (e.g., creation of fuel breaks that will disrupt the fuel continuity across the landscape in stands where annual invasive grasses are a minor component in the understory, burning slash piles from conifer reduction treatments, used as a component with other treatment methods to combat annual grasses and restore native plant communities). • Prescribed fire in known winter range shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Any prescribed fire in winter habitat will need to be designed to strategically reduce wildfire risk around and/or in the winter range and designed to protect winter range habitat quality. • Monitor and control invasive vegetation post-treatment. • Rest treated areas from grazing for two full growing seasons unless vegetation recovery dictates otherwise. • Require use of native seeds for fuels management treatment based on availability, adaptation (site potential), and probability of success. Where probability of success or native seed availability is low, non-native seeds may be used as long as they meet GRSG habitat objectives. • Design post fuels management projects to ensure long-term persistence of seeded or pre-treatment native plants. This may require temporary or long-term changes in livestock grazing management, travel management, or other activities to achieve and maintain the desired condition of the fuels management project.	(See above.)
Management Direction FIRE-1.5: The protection of human life is the single, overriding priority. Setting priorities among protecting human communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources will be done based on the values to be protected, human health and safety, and the costs of protection. In PHMA, prioritize suppression, immediately after life and property, to conserve the habitat. See Appendix H of the 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMPA/ROD (BLM 2015a), which will be completed to help further refine fire management actions once this plan is completed.	No change proposed.

North Dakota RMP Amendment	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Included in MA above. Also: Management Direction FIRE-I.4: If prescribed fire is used, the Burn Plan will clearly indicate how COT objectives will be addressed and met, and why alternative techniques are not applicable. A fire risk assessment will be completed for implementation of prescribed fire used to meet the GRSG goals and objectives in PHMA (see Appendix H, GRSG Wildfire and Invasive Species Habitat Assessment, of the 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMPA/ROD [BLM 2015a]).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Direction FIRE-I.2: Design fuels management projects in PHMA to strategically and effectively reduce wildfire threats in the greatest area.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Direction FIRE-I.3: In PHMA, during fuels management project design, consider the utility of using livestock to strategically reduce fine fuels, and implement grazing management that will accomplish this objective. Consult with ecologists to minimize impacts on native perennial grasses.	No change proposed.
Management Direction FIRE-I.8: In PHMA, prioritize native seed allocation for use in GRSG habitat in years when preferred native seed is in short supply. This may require reallocation of native seed from emergency stabilization and rehabilitation (ES&R) projects outside of PHMA to those inside it. Use of native plant seeds for ES&R seedings is required based on availability, adaptation (site potential), and probability of success. Where probability of success or native seed availability is low, non-native seeds may be used as long as they meet GRSG habitat conservation objectives. Re-establishment of appropriate sagebrush species/subspecies and important understory plants, relative to site potential, shall be the highest priority for rehabilitation efforts.	No change proposed.
Management Direction FIRE-I.9: In PHMA, design post ES&R management to ensure long-term persistence of seeded or pre-burn native plants. This may require temporary or long-term changes in livestock grazing, and travel management, etc., to achieve and maintain the desired condition of ES&R projects to benefit GRSG.	No change proposed.
Management Direction FIRE-I.10: In PHMA, consider potential changes in climate when proposing post-fire seedings using native plants. Consider seed collections from the warmer component within a species' current range for selection of native seed.	No change proposed.
Management Direction FIRE-I.6: In GHMA, prioritize suppression where wildfires threaten PHMA.	No change proposed.

North Dakota RMP Amendment	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions: Lands and Realty	
Management Direction LR-1.11: Lands classified as PHMA and GHMA for GRSG will be retained in federal management unless: (1) the BLM can demonstrate that disposal of the lands will provide a net conservation gain to GRSG or (2) the BLM can demonstrate that the disposal of the lands will have no direct or indirect adverse impact on conservation of GRSG. See Figure 2-11, North Dakota Land Tenure (Appendix A of the 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMPA/ROD [BLM 2015a]).	No change proposed.
Management Direction LR-1.12: PHMA will be a priority in consideration of land acquisitions. Consider GRSG for all land tenure actions.	No change proposed.
Management Direction LR-1.1: PHMA will be managed as ROW avoidance area for major ROWs (high-voltage transmission lines (100 kilovolt [kV] and over) and large pipelines (24 inches in width and over)). See Figure 2-10a, North Dakota Major Rights-of-Way (Appendix A of the 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMPA/ROD [BLM 2015a]). Where new ROWs are required, co-locate new ROW within existing ROWs or where it best minimizes impacts on GRSG and GRSG habitat.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Direction LR-1.2: PHMA will be managed as ROW avoidance area for minor ROWs (including communication sites and towers). See Figure 2-10b, North Dakota Minor Rights-of-Way (Appendix A of the 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMPA/ROD [BLM 2015a]).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Direction LR-1.6: GHMA will be managed as ROW avoidance area for high-voltage transmission lines (100kV and over) and large pipelines (24 inches in width and over).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Direction LR-1.7: Minor ROWs will be allowed in GHMA with appropriate mitigation and conservation measures identified within the terms of the authorization to minimize surface disturbing and disruptive activities.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Direction LR-1.9: Where new ROWs are necessary in GHMA, co-locate new ROWs within existing ROWs where possible.	No change proposed.
Management Direction LR-1.3: Make PHMA exclusion area for new ROW wind and solar energy authorizations. See Figure 2-8, North Dakota Wind, and Figure 2-9, North Dakota Solar (Appendix A of the 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMPA/ROD [BLM 2015a]).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Land Use Authorizations - Allocation: Manage the following areas as ROW exclusion (Map 2-4): Greater Sage-Grouse PHMA (solar and wind; see Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMP Amendment, September 2015)	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

North Dakota RMP Amendment	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Management Direction LR-I.8: Make GHMA avoidance area for new wind and solar energy authorizations. See Figure 2-8 and Figure 2-9 (Appendix A of the 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMPA/ROD [BLM 2015a]).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Direction LR-I.10: PHMA will be avoidance areas for leases/land use authorizations, which can be for agricultural, occupancy, or filming. Leases/land use authorizations will be allowed in GHMA with appropriate mitigation and conservation measures identified within the terms of the authorization to minimize surface disturbing and disruptive activities.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Direction LR-I.4: When addressing ROW authorizations in PHMA identify and evaluate opportunities to remove, bury or modify existing power lines within PHMA.	No change proposed.
Management Direction LR-I.5: In PHMA, where existing leases or ROWs have had some level of development (road, fence, well, etc.) and are no longer in use, reclaim the site by removing these features and restoring the habitat.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Fluid Mineral Resources	
Management Direction MR-I.14: Where the federal government owns the mineral estate in PHMA and GHMA, and the surface is in non-federal ownership, apply the same stipulations, COAs, and/or conservation measures and RDFs applied if the mineral estate is developed on BLM-administered lands in that management area, to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities, and in coordination with the landowner.	No change proposed.
Management Direction MR-I.15: Where the federal government owns the surface and the mineral estate is in non-federal ownership in PHMA and GHMA, apply appropriate surface use COAs, stipulations, and mineral RDFs through ROW grants or other surface management instruments, to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities, in coordination with the mineral estate owner/lessee.	No change proposed.
Management Direction MR-I.3: Allow geophysical exploration within PHMA to obtain exploratory information for areas outside of and adjacent to PHMA.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
Management Direction MR-I.4: Allow geophysical operations by existing roads and trails, or helicopter-portable drilling methods, and in accordance with seasonal timing restrictions and/or other restrictions that may apply.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
Management Direction R-I.14: In PHMA, do not recommend withdrawal proposals not associated with mineral activity unless the land management is consistent with GRSG conservation measures. (For example, in a proposed withdrawal for a military training range buffer area, manage the buffer area with GRSG conservation measures.)	Potential change under Alternative 3.

North Dakota RMP Amendment	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Objective MR-1.1: Priority will be given to leasing and development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, outside of PHMA and GHMA. When analyzing leasing and authorizing development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, in PHMA and GHMA, and subject to applicable stipulations for the conservation of GRSG, priority will be given to development in non-habitat areas first and then in the least suitable habitat for GRSG. The implementation of these priorities will be subject to valid existing rights and any applicable law or regulation, including, but not limited to, 30 US Code 226(p) and 43 CFR, Part 3162.3-1(h). Where a proposed fluid mineral development project on an existing lease could adversely affect GRSG populations or habitat, the BLM will work with the lessees, operators, or other project proponents to avoid, minimize, and apply compensatory mitigation for adverse impacts to the extent compatible with lessees' rights to drill and produce fluid mineral resources. The BLM will work with the lessee, operator, or project proponent in developing an application for permit to drill for the lease to avoid and minimize impacts on GRSG or its habitat and will ensure that the best information about the GRSG and its habitat informs and helps to guide development of such Federal leases.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Direction MR-1.1 (part): Open to oil and gas leasing and development; however, surface occupancy and use will be prohibited within PHMA (NSO). Upon expiration or termination of existing leases, apply NSO. See Figure 2-4, North Dakota Fluid Minerals (Oil, Gas, and Geothermal) (Appendix A of the 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMPA/ROD [BLM 2015a]).	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
Fluid Mineral Leasing – Allocation: Manage Greater Sage-Grouse PHMA open to fluid mineral leasing subject to NSO stipulations (see Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMP Amendment, September 2015).	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
Management Direction MR-1.2: In GHMA, surface occupancy and use will be subject to special operating constraints (CSU) (Appendix G, Oil and Gas Stipulations, of the 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMPA/ROD [BLM 2015a]).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

North Dakota RMP Amendment	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Management Direction MR-1.1 (part): No waivers or modifications to a fluid mineral lease no-surface-occupancy stipulation will be granted. The BLM Authorized Officer may grant an exception to a fluid mineral lease no-surface-occupancy stipulation only where the proposed action: i. Will not have direct, indirect, or cumulative effects on GRSG or its habitat; or, ii. Is proposed to be undertaken as an alternative to a similar action occurring on a nearby parcel and will provide a clear conservation gain to GRSG. Exceptions based on conservation gain (ii) may only be considered in (a) PHMA of mixed ownership where federal minerals underlie less than fifty percent of the total surface, or (b) areas of the public lands where the proposed exception is an alternative to an action occurring on a nearby parcel subject to a valid Federal fluid mineral lease existing as of the date of this RMPA. Exceptions based on conservation gain must also include measures, such as enforceable institutional controls and buffers, sufficient to allow the BLM to conclude that such benefits will endure for the duration of the proposed action's impacts. Any exceptions to this lease stipulation may be approved by the BLM Authorized Officer only with the concurrence of the State Director. The BLM Authorized Officer may not grant an exception unless the applicable state wildlife agency, the USFWS, and the BLM unanimously find that the proposed action satisfies (i) or (ii). Such finding shall initially be made by a team of one field biologist or other GRSG expert from each respective agency. In the event the initial finding is not unanimous, the finding may be elevated to the appropriate BLM State Director, USFWS State Ecological Services Director, and state wildlife agency head for final resolution. In the event their finding is not unanimous, the exception will not be granted. Approved exceptions will be made publicly available at least quarterly.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Direction MR-1.5: During implementation level review and decisions, (e.g., approval of an application for permit to drill and Sundry Notice) and upon completion of the environmental record of review (43 CFR, Part 3162.5), include appropriate documentation of compliance with NEPA. In this process evaluate, among other things: (1) Whether the conservation measure is "reasonable" (43 CFR, Part 3101.1-2) with the valid existing rights; and (2) Whether the action is in conformance with the Approved RMPA.	No change proposed.

North Dakota RMP Amendment	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Conservation Measure #1: The following operating constraints will be applied to existing leases as conditions of approval (COAs) in PHMA and GHMA. Exceptions may be granted by the BLM Authorized Officer if an environmental review demonstrates that effects can be mitigated to an acceptable level, habitat for the species is not present in the area, or portions of the area can be occupied without affecting a particular species. Exceptions may also be granted where the short-term effects are mitigated by the long-term benefits. The BLM may add additional site-specific restrictions as deemed necessary by further environmental analysis and as developed through coordination with other federal, state, and local regulatory and resource agencies. - Surface disturbing/disruptive activities will prevent or minimize disturbance to GRSG or their habitat. Except as identified above or during emergency situations, activities will not compromise the functionality of the habitat. - Manage water developments to reduce the spread of West Nile virus within GRSG habitat areas. - Site and/or minimize linear ROW to reduce disturbance to sagebrush habitats. - Maximize placement of new utility developments (power lines, pipelines, etc.) and transportation routes in existing ROWs. - Power lines will be buried, eliminated, designed or sited in a manner which does not impact GRSG. - Placement of other high profile structures, exceeding 10 feet in height, will be eliminated, designed or sited in a manner which does not impact GRSG. - Remote monitoring of production facilities must be utilized and all permit applications must contain a plan to reduce the frequency of vehicle use. - Maximize the area of interim reclamation on long-term access roads and well pads including reshaping, top-soiling and re-vegetating cut and fill slopes. Utilize native grass species mix which includes sagebrush and forbs. - Restore disturbed areas at final reclamation to pre-disturbance conditions or desired plant community. Utilize native grass species mix which includes sagebrush and forbs. - Permanent (longer than 2 months) structures which create movement must be designed or sited to minimize impacts on GRSG. - As reasonable (43 CFR, Part 3101.1-2), in consideration of valid existing rights, and to achieve a net conservation gain, the BLM will require compensatory mitigation when impacts cannot be adequately avoided and minimized, and residual impacts will result in habitat loss and degradation.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

North Dakota RMP Amendment	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Compensatory mitigation actions will align with the recommendations in the Regional Mitigation Strategy (see Appendix F of the 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMPA/ROD [BLM 2015a]), as appropriate. A priority may be given to compensatory mitigation actions in the same PHMA as is being impacted, unless a greater benefit can be achieved elsewhere. Compensatory mitigation will be considered when no feasible options remain to adequately avoid and minimize impacts within and immediately adjacent to the impacted site. Conservation Measure #2: Make applicable RDFs (Appendix C of the 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMPA/ROD [BLM 2015a]) mandatory as COA within PHMA.	(See above.)
Management Decisions: Solid Leasable Minerals	
Management Direction MR-1.12: Close PHMA to nonenergy leasable mineral leasing. See Figure 2-7, North Dakota Nonenergy Leasables (Appendix A of the 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMPA/ROD [BLM 2015a]). This includes not permitting any new leases to expand an existing mine.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
Management Direction MR-1.13: For existing nonenergy leasable mineral leases in PHMA, follow the same RDFs applied to fluid minerals (Appendix C of the 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMPA/ROD [BLM 2015a]), when wells are used for solution mining.	No change proposed.
Management Direction MR-1.8: In GHMA, apply minimization of surface-disturbing or disrupting activities (including operations and maintenance) where needed to reduce the impacts of human activities on important seasonal GRSG habitats. Apply these measures during activity level planning. • Use additional, effective mitigation to offset impacts as appropriate (determined by local options/needs).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Direction MR-1.6: At the time an application for a new coal lease or lease modification is submitted to the BLM, the BLM will determine whether the lease application area is "unsuitable" for all or certain coal mining methods pursuant to 43 CFR, Part 3461.5. PHMA is essential habitat for maintaining GRSG for purposes of the suitability criteria set forth at 43 CFR, Part 3461.5(o)(1). See Figure 2-13, North Dakota Coal (Appendix A of the 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMPA/ROD [BLM 2015a]).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Direction MR-1.7: Sub-surface mines - Grant no new mining leases unless all surface disturbances (appurtenant facilities) are placed outside of PHMA.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Locatable Materials	
Management Direction LR-1.13: Not withdrawn from minerals on BLM surface.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

North Dakota RMP Amendment	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Management Direction MR-1.9: In PHMA, proposed actions under Plan of Operations and Notices will be analyzed on a case-by-case basis in cooperation with the State of North Dakota, and RDFs (Appendix C of the 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMPA/ROD [BLM 2015a]) will be applied to the extent consistent with applicable law. See Figure 2-5, North Dakota Locatable Minerals (Appendix A of the 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMPA/ROD [BLM 2015a]). Note: Locatable mineral exploration and development under the mining laws are not discretionary actions; however, Notices and Plan of Operation are reviewed to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation to resources.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
Management Decisions: Mineral Materials	
Management Direction MR-1.10: Close PHMA to mineral material sales [available to free use permits]. See Figure 2-6, North Dakota Salable Minerals (Mineral Materials) (Appendix A of the 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMPA/ROD [BLM 2015a]).	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
Management Direction MR-1.11: In PHMA, restore salable mineral pits no longer in use to meet GRSG habitat conservation objectives. Note: Although there are no authorized mineral pits in the planning area, any trespass pits found in the planning area will be subject to restoration.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Recreation	
Management Direction REC-1.1: Only allow Special Recreation Permits that will have neutral or beneficial effects on PHMA.	No change proposed.
Management Direction REC-1.2: In PHMA, do not construct new recreation facilities (e.g., campgrounds, trails, trailheads, and staging areas) unless the development will have a net conservation gain to GRSG habitat (such as concentrating recreation, diverting use away from important areas, etc.), or unless the development is required for visitor health and safety or resource protection.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management	
Management Direction TTM-1.1: In PHMA and GHMA, limit OHV travel to existing roads, primitive roads, and trails at a minimum, until such time as travel management planning is complete and routes are either designated or closed. See Figure 2-12, North Dakota Trails and Travel Management (Appendix A of the 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMPA/ROD [BLM 2015a]).	No change proposed.

North Dakota RMP Amendment	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Management Direction TTM-1.3: In PHMA and GHMA, complete activity level travel plans within 5 years of the ROD. During activity level planning, where appropriate, designate routes in PHMA and GHMA with current administrative/agency purpose or need to administrative access only.	No change proposed.
Management Direction TTM-1.6: In PHMA and GHMA, allow no upgrading of existing routes that will change route category (road, primitive road, or trail) or capacity unless the upgrading will have minimal impact on GRSG habitat, is necessary for motorist safety, or eliminates the need to construct a new road.	No change proposed.
Management Direction TTM-1.4: In PHMA, limit route construction to realignments of existing designated routes if that realignment has a minimal impact on GRSG habitat, eliminates the need to construct a new road, or is necessary for motorist safety. Allow new routes/realignments in PHMA and GHMA during site-specific travel planning if it improves GRSG habitat and resource conditions.	No change proposed.
Management Direction TTM-1.7: When travel management plans are complete, conduct restoration of roads, primitive roads and trails in PHMA and GHMA.	No change proposed.
Management Direction TTM-1.8: When reseeding roads, primitive roads and trails in PHMA and GHMA, use appropriate seed mixes and consider the use of transplanted sagebrush.	No change proposed.
Management Direction TTM-1.9: In PHMA and GHMA, temporary closures will be considered in accordance with 43 CFR, subpart 8364 (Closures and Restrictions); 43 CFR, subpart 8351 (Designated National Area); 43 CFR, subpart 6302 (Use of Wilderness Areas, Prohibited Acts, and Penalties); 43 CFR, subpart 8341 (Conditions of Use). Temporary closure or restriction orders under these authorities are enacted at the discretion of the BLM Authorized Officer to resolve management conflicts and protect persons, property, and public lands and resources. Where a BLM Authorized Officer determines that OHVs are causing or will cause considerable adverse effects upon soil, vegetation, wildlife, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, historical resources, threatened or endangered species, wilderness suitability, other authorized uses, or other resources, the affected areas shall be immediately closed to the type(s) of vehicle causing the adverse effect until the adverse effects are eliminated and measures implemented to prevent recurrence. (43 CFR, Part 8341.2) A closure or restriction order shall be considered only after other management strategies and alternatives have been explored. The duration of temporary closure or restriction orders shall be limited to 24 months or less; however, certain situations may require longer closures and/or iterative temporary closures. This may include closure of routes or areas.	No change proposed.

North Dakota RMP Amendment	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Management Direction TTM-1.2: In PHMA, travel management will evaluate the need for permanent, or seasonal, road or area closures where vehicle use is causing or will cause adverse effects upon habitat.	No change proposed.
Management Direction TTM-1.5: In PHMA, use existing routes, or realignments as described above to access valid existing rights that are not yet developed. If valid existing rights cannot be accessed via existing routes, then build any new route constructed to the absolute minimum standard necessary.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Livestock Grazing	
Management Direction LG-1.3: Within PHMA, incorporate GRSG habitat objectives and management considerations into all BLM grazing allotments through AMP or permit renewals. Develop standards with State of North Dakota and USFWS.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Direction LG-1.6: In PHMA, conduct land health assessments that include (at a minimum) indicators and measurements of structure/condition/composition of vegetation specific to achieving GRSG habitat objectives. Local objectives will be developed at the field office level in partnership with North Dakota Game and Fish Department and USFWS, and incorporated into AMPs or livestock grazing permits as appropriate incorporating best available science.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Direction LG-1.8: Develop specific objectives to conserve, enhance or restore PHMA based on ecological site descriptions and assessments (including within wetlands and riparian areas). If an effective grazing system that meets GRSG habitat requirements is not already in place, analyze at least one alternative that conserves, restores or enhances GRSG habitat in the NEPA document prepared for the permit renewal.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Direction LG-1.5: The BLM will prioritize (1) the review of grazing permits/leases, in particular to determine if modification is necessary prior to renewal, and (2) the processing of grazing permits/leases in PHMA. In setting workload priorities, precedence will be given to existing permits/leases in these areas not meeting Land Health Standards, with focus on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows. The BLM may use other criteria for prioritization to respond to urgent natural resource concerns (such as fire) and legal obligations. The NEPA analysis for renewals and modifications of livestock grazing permits/leases that include lands within PHMA will include specific management thresholds, based on GRSG Habitat Objectives (Table 2-3), Habitat Objectives for GRSG and ecological site potential, and one or more defined responses that will allow the authorizing officer to make adjustments to livestock grazing that have already been subjected to NEPA analysis.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

North Dakota RMP Amendment	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Part of Management Direction LG-I.5: Allotments within PHMA, focusing on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows, will be prioritized for field checks to help ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the grazing permits. Field checks can include monitoring for actual use, utilization, and use supervision.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Direction LG-I.17: Evaluate the role of existing seedings that are currently composed of primarily introduced perennial grasses in and adjacent to PHMA to determine if they should be restored to sagebrush or habitat of higher quality for GRSG. If these seedings are part of an AMP/Conservation Plan or if they provide value in conserving or enhancing the rest of the PHMA, then no restoration will be necessary. Assess the compatibility of these seedings for GRSG habitat or as a component of a grazing system during the land health assessments.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Direction LG-I.19: When developing or modifying water developments in PHMA, use applicable RDFs (Appendix C of the 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMPA/ROD2 [BLM 2015a]) to mitigate potential impacts from West Nile virus.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Direction LG-I.20: In PHMA, evaluate existing structural range improvements and location of supplements (salt or protein blocks) during grazing lease renewal process to make sure they conserve, enhance or restore GRSG habitat. To reduce outright GRSG strikes and mortality, remove, modify or mark fences in high risk areas within PHMA based on proximity to lek, lek size, and topography. Monitor for, and treat invasive species associated with existing range improvements.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Direction LG-I.18: In PHMA, design any new structural range improvements and location of supplements (salt or protein blocks) to conserve, enhance, or restore GRSG habitat through an improved grazing management system relative to GRSG objectives. Structural range improvements, in this context, include but are not limited to: cattle guards, fences, exclosures, corrals or other livestock handling structures; pipelines, troughs, storage tanks (including moveable tanks used in livestock water hauling), windmills, ponds/reservoirs, solar panels and spring developments. Potential for invasive species establishment or increase following construction must be considered in the project planning process and monitored and treated post-construction.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Direction LG-I.16: In PHMA, allow treatments that conserve, enhance or restore GRSG habitat as well as other priority species habitat (this includes treatments that benefit livestock as part of an AMP/Conservation Plan to improve GRSG habitat).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

North Dakota RMP Amendment	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Management Direction LG-1.9: In PHMA, manage for vegetation composition and structure consistent with GRSG seasonal habitat objectives. ESDs can help determine whether or not the GRSG seasonal habitat objectives are consistent with the ecological site potential within the reference state. GRSG seasonal habitat objectives and ecological site potential within reference states are not always going to be the same.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Direction LG-1.10: In PHMA, implement management directions (grazing decisions, AMP/Conservation Plan development, or other agreements) to modify grazing management to meet State of North Dakota seasonal GRSG habitat requirements, where allotment evaluations indicate land health assessments are not being met due to livestock. Consider singly, or in combination, changes in: 1. Season or timing of use; 2. Numbers of livestock (includes temporary non-use or livestock removal); 3. Distribution of livestock use; 4. Intensity of use; and 5. Type of livestock (e.g., cattle, sheep, horses, llamas, alpacas, and goats).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Direction LG-1.11: During drought periods, prioritize evaluating effects of the drought in PHMA relative to their needs for food and cover. Management will continue to be in accordance with the Montana-Dakotas Drought Policy (see Appendix H, Drought Policy, of the 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMP/ROD [BLM 2015a]).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Direction LG-1.7: At the time a permittee ³ or lessee voluntarily relinquishes a permit or lease, the BLM will consider whether the public lands where that permitted use was authorized should remain available for livestock grazing or be used for other resource management objectives, such as reserve common allotments or fire breaks. This does not apply to or impact grazing preference transfers, which are addressed in 43 CFR 4110.2-3. ³ The North Dakota BLM does not currently have any issued grazing permits, only leases.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
ND RMP Amendment process: Management Directions Common to All Alternatives for LG includes: • Apply the management decisions to address livestock use in Greater Sage Grouse habitat as described in the North Dakota Field Office Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMP Amendment (2015).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Table 2. North Dakota Habitat Objectives for GRSG

Attribute	Indicators	Desired Conditions	Reference
BREEDING AND NESTING (Seasonal Use Period March 1 - June 15)			
Lek Security	Proximity of trees	0.388 miles avoidance of coniferous habitats	Doherty 2008
	Proximity of sagebrush to leks	Adjacent protective sagebrush cover within 328 feet (ft.) (100 meters [m]) of an occupied lek	Stiver et al. 2015
Cover	Sagebrush cover	≥5-25%	Herman-Brunson 2007 Doherty et al. 2010
	Sagebrush height	7-30 inches	Swanson 2009 Holloran et al. 2005 Herman-Brunson 2007
	Predominant sage brush shape	Predominately spreading shape	Stiver et al. 2015
	Perennial grass cover	≥10% Not Continuous	Doherty et al. 2010 Doherty et al. 2011 Holloran et al. 2005 Hagen et al. 2007
	Perennial grass and forb height	Adequate nest cover based on ecological site potential and seasonal precipitation; 4.4-11.3 inches ¹	Doherty et al. 2014
	Perennial forb cover	≥5% Not Continuous	Doherty et al. 2010 Doherty et al. 2011 Hagen et al. 2007 Holloran et al. 2005
BROOD-REARING/SUMMER (Seasonal Use Period June 16-October 31)			
Cover	Sagebrush cover	≥5 %	Herman-Brunson 2007 Swanson 2009 Doherty et al. 2010 Doherty et al. 2011 Hagen et al. 2007
	Sagebrush height	7-30 inches	Herman-Brunson 2007 Doherty et al. 2011 Holloran et al. 2005 Schroeder et al. 1999
	Perennial grass and forbs	≥20% Forbs 6-16%	Doherty et al. 2010 Doherty et al. 2011 Holloran et al. 2005 Herman-Brunson 2007
	Riparian areas/mesic meadows	Proper Functioning Condition	BLM 1997c Prichard et al. 1999 Dickard et al. 2015
	Upland and riparian perennial forb availability	Preferred forbs are common with several preferred species present.	Stiver et al. 2015 Doherty et al. 2011
WINTER (Seasonal Use Period November 1-February 28)			
Cover and Food	Sagebrush cover above snow	≥10%	Schroeder et al. 1999 Swanson 2009
	Sagebrush height above snow	≥ 6 inches	Schroeder et al. 1999 Doherty et al. 2011 Swanson 2009

¹Specific height requirements needed to meet the objective will be set at the time of watershed assessments.

2.11.2 Relevant Appendices

The following table shows which appendices from the 2015 plan have management direction that may change through this RMP amendment. The appendices can be found on [the North Dakota GRSG ePlanning website](#).

ARMPA Appendix Name	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
A: Approved RMP Amendment Maps	Yes
B: Applying Lek Buffer Distances When Approving Actions	Yes
C: Required Design Features	Yes
D: The Greater Sage-Grouse Monitoring Framework	Yes
E: Greater Sage-Grouse Disturbance Caps	Yes
F: Regional Mitigation Strategy	Yes
G: Oil and Gas Stipulations	Yes
H: GRSG Wildfire and Invasive Species Habitat Assessment	Yes

Appendix 2.12

Nevada and Northeastern California RMPs

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2.12 NEVADA AND NORTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA RMPs

This appendix presents the GRSG approved RMP amendment language from the 2015 and 2019 records of decision for Nevada and northeastern California. Changes between 2015 and 2019 are noted. The table below notes which goals, objectives, appendices, and management decisions/actions have a potential to change as a result of the current planning effort and if so, under which alternatives changes are being considered. Note that any references to tables and appendices are to those applicable 2015 and 2019 appendices that are listed in **Section 2.12.2** of this appendix.

2.12.1 Existing GRSG RMP Management – Nevada and Northeastern California

Table 1. Acres of PHMA, GHMA, and OHMA in the Decision Area for the 2015 ARMPA (as maintained April 2022)

Management Agency	PHMA	GHMA	OHMA
BLM Administered Surface	9,224,903	5,770,276	4,860,140
BLM Administered Subsurface (Forest Service)	986,400	796,100	621,400

Table 2. Acres of PHMA, GHMA, and OHMA in the Decision Area for the 2019 ARMPA

Management Agency	PHMA	GHMA	OHMA
BLM Administered Surface	9,309,700	5,720,600	5,876,600
BLM Administered Subsurface (Forest Service)	986,400	796,100	621,400

**Table 3. Acres of GRSG Habitat by County in the Decision Area
(BLM-Administered Lands Only)¹
2015 ARMPA (as maintained April 2022)**

County Name ²	ARMPA			
	PHMA ³	GHMA	OHMA	TOTAL
Churchill	26,088	89,088	132,034	247,210
Elko	3,180,610	1,152,284	1,033,775	5,366,669
Eureka	684,165	616,828	363,653	1,664,646
Humboldt	1,117,470	375,499	330,672	1,823,641
Lander	850,521	519,097	510,744	1,880,362
Lassen	421,208	401,137	119,000	941,345
Lincoln	101,555	312,960	317,101	731,616
Lyon	-	-	-	-
Mineral	-	-	-	-
Modoc	63,329	128,512	60,714	252,555
Nye	294,933	211,246	611,652	1,117,831
Pershing	53,556	197,279	388,614	639,449
Plumas	-	1,592	139	1,731
Sierra	-	363	90	453
Storey	-	-	-	-
Washoe	1,354,870	421,652	206,703	1,983,225
White Pine	1,073,771	1,343,149	784,847	3,201,767
Grand Total	9,222,076	5,770,686	4,859,738	19,852,500

¹ These figures do not include subsurface split-estate acreage. ²The following counties in the planning area do not contain mapped GRSG habitat: Carson City, Douglas, Esmeralda, and Siskiyou. ³PHMA acres in the proposed plan include 2,797,400 acres in Elko, Humboldt, and Washoe Counties associated with SFA.

**Table 4. Acres of GRSG Habitat by County in the Decision Area
(BLM-Administered Lands Only)¹
2019 ARMPA (as maintained in December 2015)**

County Name ²	ARMPA			
	PHMA ³	GHMA	OHMA	TOTAL
Churchill	74,900	78,200	171,500	324,600
Elko	3,476,900	995,600	1,000,600	5,473,100
Eureka	635,300	531,400	371,000	1,537,700
Humboldt	1,294,300	661,600	715,200	2,671,100
Lander	765,600	612,500	591,300	1,969,400
Lassen	282,100	278,800	283,700	844,600
Lincoln	141,000	464,000	376,400	981,400
Lyon	—	600	1,400	2,000
Mineral	—	—	5,800	5,800
Modoc	56,900	93,400	64,800	215,100
Nye	310,900	266,800	770,700	1,348,400
Pershing	62,200	168,800	502,200	733,200
Plumas	—	—	1,800	1,800
Sierra	—	300	200	500
Storey	—	300	700	1,000
Washoe	1,214,500	466,500	305,700	1,986,700
White Pine	994,800	1,101,800	713,600	2,810,200
Grand Total	9,309,400	5,720,600	5,876,600	20,906,600

¹ These figures do not include subsurface split-estate acreage.

² The following counties in the planning area do not contain mapped GRSG habitat: Carson City, Douglas, Esmeralda, and Siskiyou.

³ PHMA acres in the proposed plan include 2,797,400 acres in Elko, Humboldt, and Washoe Counties associated with SFA.

**Table 5. Acres of GRSG Habitat by BLM District/Field Office in the Decision Area (BLM-Administered Lands Only)¹
2015 ARMPA (as maintained in April 2022)**

BLM Office	ARMPA			
	PHMA ²	GHMA	OHMA	TOTAL
Alturas Field Office ³	9,281	245,918	90,382	345,581
Battle Mountain District Office	1,615,544	1,014,920	985,607	3,616,071
Carson City District Office	124,472	225,221	189,897	539,590
Eagle Lake Field Office	519,561	232,403	129,917	881,881
Elko District Office	3,374,094	1,371,114	1,194,698	5,939,906
Ely District Office	1,199,077	1,770,898	1,442,200	4,412,175
Jarbridge Field Office ⁴	31,802	11,556	498	43,856
Bruneau Field Office ⁴	7,173	627	106	7,906
Surprise Field Office ³	918,711	189,376	57,767	1,165,854
Winnemucca District Office	1,466,520	770,486	721,262	2,958,268
Total Acres	9,266,235	5,832,519	4,812,334	19,911,088

¹These figures do not include subsurface split-estate acreage.

²Includes 2,797,400 acres of SFA in the Surprise Field Office, Winnemucca District Office, and Elko District Office.

³The Alturas Field Office has been combined with the Surprise Field Office and renamed the Applegate Field Office.

⁴Only that part of the Idaho BLM Jarbridge and Bruneau Field Offices that falls in the Nevada state line.

Table 6. Acres of GRSG Habitat by BLM District/Field Office in the Decision Area (BLM-Administered Lands Only)¹
2019 ARMPA

BLM Office	2019 ARMPA			
	PHMA ²	GHMA	OHMA	TOTAL
Alturas Field Office ³	12,200	127,700	178,000	317,900
Battle Mountain District Office	1,549,600	1,014,300	1,163,600	3,727,500
Carson City District Office	115,000	231,100	309,400	655,500
Eagle Lake Field Office	474,300	242,800	147,700	864,800
Elko District Office	3,586,900	1,203,600	1,152,500	5,943,000
Ely District Office	1,176,000	1,741,800	1,486,200	4,404,000
Jarvis Field Office ⁴	32,700	10,000	900	43,600
Bruneau Field Office ⁴	7,700	0	300	8,000
Surprise Field Office	862,500	215,400	100,400	1,178,300
Winnemucca District Office	1,492,800	933,900	1,337,600	3,764,300
Total Acres	9,309,700	5,720,600	5,876,600	20,906,900

¹These figures do not include subsurface split-estate acreage.

²Includes 2,797,400 acres of SFA in the Surprise Field Office, Winnemucca District Office, and Elko District Office.

³The Alturas Field Office has recently been renamed the Applegate Field Office.

⁴Only that part of the Idaho BLM Jarvis and Bruneau Field Offices that falls in the Nevada state line.

Table 7 is a summary of the allocation decisions presented for each GRSG habitat management area.

**Table 7. Summary of Allocation Decisions by GRSG Habitat Management Areas
2015 ARMPA (as maintained in April 2022)**

Resource	PHMA	GHMA	OHMA
Land tenure	Retain	Retain	Retain/dispose
Solar	Exclusion	Exclusion	Open
Wind	Exclusion	Avoidance	Open
Major ROWs	Avoidance	Avoidance	Open
Minor ROWs	Avoidance	Open	Open
Oil and gas	Open with major stipulations	Open with minor stipulations	Open with standard stipulations
Geothermal	Open with major stipulations	Open with minor stipulations	Open with standard stipulations
Nonenergy leasable	Closed	Open	Open
Salable minerals	Closed	Open	Open
Locatable minerals	SFA = recommend withdrawal Other PHMA = open	Open	Open
Travel management	Limited	Limited	Open
Livestock grazing	Open	Open	Open

Table 8 is a summary of the allocation decisions presented for each GRSG Habitat Management Area (HMA) which includes Priority, General and Other HMA (PHMA; GHMA; OHMA). Also see **MD SSS 5** for Allocation Exception Criteria.

**Table 8. Summary of Allocation Decisions by GRSG Habitat Management Areas
2019 ARMPA**

Resource	PHMA	GHMA	OHMA
Land tenure	Retain	Retain	Retain/dispose
Solar	Exclusion	Exclusion	Exclusion
Wind	Exclusion	Avoidance	Open
Major ROWs	Avoidance	Avoidance	Open
Minor ROWs	Avoidance	Open	Open
Oil and gas	Open with major stipulations	Open with moderate stipulations	Open with standard stipulations
Geothermal	Open with major stipulations	Open with moderate stipulations	Open with standard stipulations
Nonenergy leasables	Closed	Open	Open
Salable minerals	Closed	Open	Open
Locatable minerals	Open	Open	Open
Travel management	Limited	Limited	Open
Livestock grazing	Available	Available	Available

*Site specific projects may qualify for an exception to these allocations decisions if they meet one of the criteria for allocation exceptions found in **MD SSS 5**.

**Table 9. Habitat Objectives for Greater Sage-Grouse
2015 ARMPA (as maintained in April 2022)**

Attribute	Indicators	Desired Condition (Habitat Objectives)	Reference
GENERAL/LANDSCAPE-LEVEL¹			
All life stages	Rangeland health assessments	Meeting all standards ²	
Cover (nesting)	Seasonal habitat needed	>65% of the landscape in sagebrush cover	Aldridge and Boyce 2007
	Annual grasses	<%5	Blomberg et al. 2012
Security (nesting)	Conifer encroachment	<3% phase I (>0 to <25% cover) No phase II (25 to 50% cover) No phase III (>50% cover)	Casazza et al. 2011 Coates et al. 2016
Cover and food (winter)	Conifer encroachment	<5% phase I (>0 to <25% cover) No phase II (25 to 50% cover) No phase III (>50%)	Coates et al. 2016
	Sagebrush extent	>85% sagebrush land cover	Doherty et al. 2008
LEK (Seasonal Use Period: March 1 to May 15)¹			
Cover	Availability of sagebrush cover	Adjacent sagebrush provides escape cover	Blomberg et al. 2012 Connelly et al. 2000 Stiver et al. 2015
Security ³	Pinyon or juniper cover	<2% landscape cover within .6 mile of leks	Connelly et al. 2000 (modified) Stiver et al. 2015; Baruch-Mordo et al. 2013 Coates et al. 2017a
	Proximity of Linear Features	>3.1 miles	Manier et al. 2014
	Proximity of Surface Disturbance	>3.1 miles	Manier et al. 2014
	Proximity of Tall Structures	>2 miles	Coates et al. 2013 Manier et al. 2014
	Proximity of Low Structures	>1.2 miles	Manier et al. 2014

Attribute	Indicators	Desired Condition (Habitat Objectives)	Reference
NESTING (Seasonal Use Period: April 1 to June 30)¹			
Cover ⁶	Sagebrush cover	Arid ⁸ : ≥20% Mesic ⁸ : ≥20%	Kolada et al. 2009a, 2009b Coates et al. 2017
	Residual and live perennial grass cover (such as native bunchgrasses)	Arid ⁸ : ≥7% if shrub cover is >20% ⁵ Mesic ⁸ : ≥13% if shrub cover is >20% ⁵	Coates et al. 2013; 2017 Coates and Delehanty 2010 Kolada et al. 2009a, 2009b
	Annual grass cover	Arid ⁸ : <3% Mesic ⁸ : <3%	Coates et al. 2017
	Total shrub cover	Arid ⁸ : >28% Mesic ⁸ : >26%	Coates and Delehanty 2010 Kolada et al. 2009a Coates et al. 2017
	Perennial grass height (includes residual grasses)	Arid ⁸ : 12cm Mesic ⁸ : 18cm	Connelly et al. 2000, 2003 Hagen et al. 2007; Stiver et. al. 2015 Coates et al. 2017
Security ²	Proximity of tall structures ⁴ (3 feet [1 meter] above shrub height)	Use Manier et al. 2014, Conservation Buffer Distance Estimates for GRSG-A Review; preference is 3 miles	Coates et al. 2013 Gibson et al. 2013 Manier et al. 2014
	Pinyon or juniper cover	<3% within 800 meters	Severson et al. 2017
BROOD-REARING/SUMMER (Seasonal Use Period: May 15 to September 15; Early: May 15 to June 15; Late: June 15 to September 15)¹			
UPLAND HABITATS			
Cover ⁶	Sagebrush cover	Arid ⁸ : ≥20% Mesic ⁸ : ≥15%	Connelly et al. 2000 Coates et al. 2017
	Perennial grass and forb cover	Arid ⁸ : >19% Mesic ⁸ : >25%	Connelly et al. 2000 Hagen et al. 2007 Coates et al. 2017
	Deep rooted perennial bunchgrass (within 522 feet [200 meters] of riparian areas and wet meadows)	Arid ⁸ : 12cm ⁷ Mesic ⁸ : 14cm ⁷	Hagen et al. 2007 Casazza et al. 2011 Coates et al. 2017
Cover and food ⁶	Perennial forb cover	Arid ⁸ : >5% Mesic ⁸ : >9%	Casazza et al. 2011 Lockyer et al. 2015 Coates et al. 2017
RIPARIAN/MEADOW HABITATS¹			
Cover and food ⁶	Riparian areas/meadows	PFC	Dickard et al. 2014 Prichard et al. 1998, 1999 Stiver et al. 2015
Security ⁶	Upland and riparian perennial forb availability and understory species richness	Preferred forbs are common with several species present and high species richness (all plants)	Stiver et al. 2015
	Riparian area/meadow interspersed with adjacent sagebrush	Has adjacent sagebrush cover within 200 meters	Casazza et al. 2011 Stiver et al. 2015

Attribute	Indicators	Desired Condition (Habitat Objectives)	Reference
WINTER (Seasonal Use Period: November 1 to February 28)¹			
Cover and Food	Sagebrush cover	≥10%	Connelly et al. 2000 Stiver et al. 2015
	Sagebrush height	> 25cm above snow depth	Connelly et al. 2000 Stiver et al. 2015

¹Any one single habitat indicator does not define whether the habitat objective is or is not met. Instead, the preponderance of evidence from all indicators within that seasonal habitat period must be considered when assessing GRSG habitat objectives.

²Upland standards are based on indicators for cover, including litter, live vegetation, and rock, appropriate to the ecological potential of the site.

³Applicable to Phase I and Phase II pinyon and/or juniper.

⁴Does not include fences.

⁵In addition, if upland rangeland health standards are being met.

⁶Ecological site potential to meet habitat objectives should be considered when determining if objectives are feasible for the site. See discussion below Table 2-2.

⁷In drought years, 4-inch perennial bunchgrass height with greater than 20 percent measurements exceeding 5 inches in dry years.

⁸Arid is defined as areas that received >35.0 cm of average annual precipitation.

Mesic is defined as areas that received ≤35.0 cm of average annual precipitation.

Table 9 will be implemented following this guidance: The habitat objectives are desired habitat conditions that are broad goals based on GRSG habitat selection that may not be achievable in all areas. The ability of a site to achieve habitat objectives shall be based on the ecological site potential and BLM should use high quality local or site-specific information, such as ecological site descriptions and state-and-transition models, if available, to determine if objectives are achievable. Attempting to manage sites, particularly large landscapes, to meet the vegetation objectives may not always be ecologically possible or may result in an unwanted site transition. In some cases, suitable habitat may only be found as small inclusions within the landscape, which could meet the habitat objectives.

Table 9 includes a list of indicators, characteristics, and values that describe GRSG seasonal habitat use areas. The BLM used indicator values derived from a synthesis of local and regional GRSG habitat research and data to describe the typical vegetation communities that GRSG select. While the habitat objectives are not attainable on every site or every acre within GRSG HMAs, the values reflect a range of habitat conditions that generally lead to greater survival of individuals within a population. When permitting land use activities, BLM shall consider the ecological site potential within GRSG HMAs to validate the habitat conditions achievable for a specific site. The seasonal habitat descriptions in **Table 9** vary across the range of GRSG, within a subregion, and between sites. They are not land health standards but are quantitative measures that inform the Special Status Species Habitat Land Health Standard for GRSG. These measurable values reflect ecological potential and may be adjusted based on local factors influencing GRSG local data or if new science indicates that GRSG select for vegetation structure and composition in seasonal habitats not characterized by the values in **Table 9**. In these cases, it may be appropriate to adjust the values. Habitat objectives shall be evaluated in the context of annual variability in ecological conditions and shall not be used singly to determine habitat suitability for GRSG. They may be used to demonstrate trends over time, during plan evaluations for effectiveness of GRSG conservation, or when identifying limiting habitat characteristics for a given area.

The indicators, characteristics, values and desired seasonal habitat conditions in **Table 9** are to be incorporated into the Sage-Grouse Habitat Assessment Framework (Stiver et al. 2015; HAF) Site-Scale forms (4th Order) and are meant to inform the wildlife habitat component of the Land Health Standards (LHS) evaluation process (LHS, 43 CFR 4180.2), but do not replace rangeland health assessments. Results from the

LHS evaluation shall be used to support BLM in land use authorization processes and during development of objectives for management actions such as vegetation treatments. BLM land use authorizations will contain terms and conditions regarding the actions needed to achieve or make progress toward achieving habitat objectives and LHS.

Table 9 will be periodically revised to incorporate the best available science in coordination with the SETT, USFWS, NDOW, CDFW, USGS and other partners. The team will periodically review and incorporate the best available science and will recommend adjustments based on locally derived data. As **Table 9** is updated, adjustments will be made by the BLM through plan maintenance or amendment, as appropriate.

**Table 10. Habitat Objectives for Greater Sage-Grouse
2019 ARMPA**

Attribute	Indicators	Desired Condition (Habitat Objectives)	Reference
GENERAL/LANDSCAPE-LEVEL¹			
All life stages	Rangeland health assessments	Meeting all standards ²	
Cover (nesting)	Seasonal habitat needed	>65% of the landscape in sagebrush cover	Aldridge and Boyce 2007
	Annual grasses	<5%	Blomberg et al. 2012
Security (nesting)	Conifer encroachment	<3% phase I (>0 to <25% cover) No phase II (25 to 50% cover) No phase III (>50% cover)	Casazza et al. 2011 USGS (in prep A)
Cover and food (winter)	Conifer encroachment	<5% phase I (>0 to <25% cover) No phase II (25 to 50% cover) No phase III (>50%)	USGS (in prep A) USGS (in prep B)
	Sagebrush extent	>85% sagebrush land cover	USGS (in prep A) Doherty et al. 2008
LEK (Seasonal Use Period: March 1 to May 15)¹			
Cover	Availability of sagebrush cover	Has adjacent sagebrush cover	Blomberg et al. 2012 Connelly et al. 2000 Stiver et al. 2015 (in press) HAF
Security ³	Pinyon or juniper cover	<3% landscape cover within .6 mile of leks	Connelly et al. 2000 (modified) Stiver et al. 2015 (in press) HAF
	Proximity of tall structures ⁴	Use Manier et al. 2014-Conservation Buffer Distance Estimates for GRSG-A Review; preference is 3 miles	Baruch-Mordo et al. 2013 Coates et al. 2013 Manier et al. 2014
NESTING (Seasonal Use Period: April 1 to June 30)¹			
Cover	Sagebrush cover	≥20%	Kolada et al. 2009a, 2009b
	Residual and live perennial grass cover (such as native bunchgrasses)	≥10% if shrub cover is <25% ⁵	Coates et al. 2013 Coates and Delehanty 2010 Kolada et al. 2009a, 2009b
	Annual grass cover	<5%	Lockyer et al. (in press)
	Total shrub cover	≥30%	Coates and Delehanty 2010 Kolada et al. 2009a Lockyer et al. (in press)
	Perennial grass height (includes residual grasses)	Provide overhead and lateral concealment from predators	Connelly et al. 2000, 2003 Hagen et al. 2007; Stiver et al. 2015 (in press) HAF
Security ²	Proximity of tall structures ⁴ (3 feet [1 meter] above shrub)	Use Manier et al. 2014, Conservation Buffer Distance Estimates for GRSG-A Review; preference is 3 miles	Coates et al. 2013 Gibson et al. 2013 Manier et al. 2014

Attribute	Indicators	Desired Condition (Habitat Objectives)	Reference
BROOD-REARING/SUMMER (Seasonal Use Period: May 15 to September 15; Early: May 15 to June 15; Late: June 15 to September 15)¹			
UPLAND HABITATS			
Cover	Sagebrush cover	10 to 25%	Connelly et al. 2000
	Perennial grass cover and forbs	>15% combined perennial grass and forb cover	Connelly et al. 2000 Hagen et al. 2007
	Deep rooted perennial bunchgrass (within 522 feet [200 meters] of riparian areas and wet meadows)	7 inches ^{6,7}	Hagen et al. 2007 Casazza et al. 2011
Cover and food	Perennial forb cover	≥5% arid ≥15% mesic	Casazza et al. 2011 Lockyer et al. (in press)
RIPARIAN/MEADOW HABITATS			
Cover and food	Riparian areas/meadows	PFC	Dickard et al. 2014 Prichard et al. 1998, 1999 Stiver et al. 2015 (in press) HAF
Security	Upland and riparian perennial forb availability and understory species richness	Preferred forbs are common with several species present ⁶ High species richness (all plants)	Stiver et al. 2015 (in press) HAF
	Riparian area/meadow interspersed with adjacent sagebrush	Has adjacent sagebrush cover	Casazza et al. 2011 Stiver et al. 2015 (in press) HAF
WINTER (Seasonal Use Period: November 1 to February 28)¹			
Cover and Food	Sagebrush cover	≥10% above snow depth	Connelly et al. 2000 USGS (in prep C)
	Sagebrush height	>9.8 inches above snow depth	Connelly et al. 2000 USGS (in prep C)

¹Any one single habitat indicator does not define whether the habitat objective is or is not met. Instead, the preponderance of evidence from all indicators within that seasonal habitat period must be considered when assessing sage-grouse habitat objectives.

²Upland standards are based on indicators for cover, including litter, live vegetation, and rock, appropriate to the ecological potential of the site.

³Applicable to Phase I and Phase II pinyon and/or juniper.

⁴Does not include fences.

⁵In addition, if upland rangeland health standards are being met.

⁶Relative to ecological site potential.

⁷In drought years, 4-inch perennial bunchgrass height with greater than 20 percent measurements exceeding 5 inches in dry years.

Table 10 will be periodically revised to incorporate the best available science in coordination with the SETT, USFWS, NDOW, CDFW, USFS, USGS, University of Nevada, Reno, University of California, and appropriate local agencies, and the BLM. The team will periodically review and incorporate the best available science and will recommend adjustments based on locally derived data. As **Table 10** is updated, adjustments will be made by the BLM through plan maintenance or amendment, as appropriate.

Table 10 will be implemented following this guidance: The habitat objectives are desired habitat conditions that are broad goals based on GRS habitat selection that may not be achievable in all areas. The ability of

a site to achieve the objectives shall be based on site potential, ecological site descriptions, state-and-transition models, etc.

Table 10 includes a list of indicators, characteristics, and values that describe GRSG seasonal habitat use areas. The BLM used indicator values derived from a synthesis of local and regional GRSG habitat research and data to describe the typical vegetation communities that GRSG select. While the habitat objectives are not attainable on every site or every acre within GRSG HMAs, the values reflect a range of habitat conditions that generally lead to greater survival of individuals within a population. When permitting land use activities, BLM shall consider the ecological site potential within GRSG HMAs to validate the habitat conditions achievable for a specific site. a list of indicators, characteristics, and values that describe GRSG seasonal habitat use areas. The BLM used indicator values derived from a synthesis of local and regional GRSG habitat research and data to describe the typical vegetation communities that GRSG select. While the habitat objectives are not attainable on every site or every acre within GRSG HMAs, the values reflect a range of habitat conditions that generally lead to greater survival of individuals within a population. When permitting land use activities, BLM shall consider the ecological site potential within GRSG HMAs to validate the habitat conditions achievable for a specific site.

The seasonal habitat descriptions in **Table 10** vary across the range of GRSG, within a subregion, and between sites. They are not land health standards but are quantitative measures that inform the Special Status Species Habitat Land Health Standard for GRSG. These measurable values reflect ecological potential and may be adjusted based on local factors influencing GRSG local data or if new science indicates that GRSG select for vegetation structure and composition in seasonal habitats not characterized by the values in **Table 10**. In these cases, it may be appropriate to adjust the values. Habitat objectives shall be evaluated in the context of annual variability in ecological conditions and shall not be used singly to determine habitat suitability for GRSG. They may be used to demonstrate trends over time, during plan evaluations for effectiveness of GRSG conservation, or when identifying limiting habitat characteristics for a given area.

The indicators, characteristics, values and desired seasonal habitat conditions in **Table 10** are to be incorporated into the Sage-Grouse Habitat Assessment Framework (Stiver et al. 2015; HAF) Site-Scale forms (4th Order) and are meant to inform the wildlife habitat component of the Land Health Standards (LHS) evaluation process (LHS, 43 CFR 4180.2), but do not replace rangeland health assessments. Results from the LHS evaluation shall be used to support BLM in land use authorization processes and during development of objectives for management actions such as vegetation treatments. BLM land use authorizations will contain terms and conditions regarding the actions needed to achieve or make progress toward achieving habitat objectives and LHS.

Table 11. Changes in Management from the 2015 ARMPA to the 2019 ARMPA Goals, Objectives, and Management Decisions

2015 GRSG ARMPA (as maintained)	2019 GRSG ARMPA (as maintained)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES (SSS)	SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES (SSS)	—
GOAL:	GOAL:	—
Goal SSS 1: Conserve, enhance, and restore the sagebrush ecosystem upon which GRSG populations depend in an effort to maintain and/or increase their abundance and distribution, in cooperation with other conservation partners.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Objectives	—	—
Objective SSS 1: Manage land resource uses to meet GRSG habitat objectives, as described in Table 2-2. The habitat objectives will be used to evaluate management actions that are proposed in GRSG habitat. Managing for habitat objectives will ensure that habitat conditions are maintained if they are currently meeting objectives or if habitat conditions move toward these objectives in the event that current conditions do not meet these objectives.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Objective SSS 2: Maintain or improve connectivity between, to, and in PHMAs and GHMAs to promote movement and genetic diversity for GRSG population persistence and expansion.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Objective SSS 3: Identify and implement GRSG conservation actions that can augment, enhance, or integrate program conservation measures established in agency and state land use and policy plans, to the extent consistent with applicable law.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 GRSG ARMPA (as maintained)	2019 GRSG ARMPA (as maintained)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Objective SSS 4: In PHMAs and GHMAs, apply the concept of “avoid, minimize, and compensatory mitigation” for all human disturbance in areas not already excluded or closed, so as to avoid adverse effects on GRSG and its habitat. The first priority will be to avoid new disturbance; where this is not feasible, the second priority will be to minimize and mitigate any new disturbance (Appendices F and I).	Objective SSS 4: When authorizing third-party actions in designated GRSG HMAs, the BLM will apply avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts, while seeking to achieve the planning-level goals and objectives for GRSG and its habitat, consistent with valid existing rights and applicable law. Management will be consistent with the GRSG goals and objectives, and in conformance with BLM Manual 6840, Special Status Species Management. Specifically, the BLM will authorize uses of the public lands that are consistent with the policy in BLM Manual 6840 and therefore “minimize or eliminate threats affecting the status of [GRSG]” or “improve the condition of [GRSG] habitat.”	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
MD SSS 1: In PHMAs and GHMAs, work with the proponent/applicant, whether in accordance with a valid existing right or not, and use the following screening criteria to avoid effects of the proposed human activity on GRSG habitat ¹ : A. First priority—locate project/activity outside PHMAs and GHMAs B. Second priority—if the project/activity cannot be placed outside PHMAs and GHMAs, locate the surface-disturbing activities in non-habitat areas first, then in the least suitable habitat for GRSG I. In non-habitat, ensure the project/activity will not create a barrier to movement or connectivity between seasonal habitats and populations C. Third priority—collocate the project/activity next to or in the footprint of existing infrastructure	MD SSS 1: In PHMAs and GHMAs, work with the proponent/applicant, whether in accordance with a valid existing right or not, and use the following screening criteria to avoid effects of the proposed human activity on GRSG habitat ¹ : A. First priority—locate project/activity outside PHMAs and GHMAs; B. Second priority—if the project/activity cannot be placed outside PHMAs and GHMAs, locate the surface-disturbing activities in non-habitat areas first, then in the least suitable habitat for GRSG. - I-In non-habitat, ensure the project/activity will not create a barrier to movement or connectivity between GRSG seasonal habitats and populations; C. Third priority—collocate the project/activity next to or in the footprint of existing infrastructure.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 GRS G ARMPA (as maintained)	2019 GRS G ARMPA (as maintained)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD SSS 2: In PHMAs, the following conditions will be met in order to avoid, minimize, and mitigate any effects on GRS G and its habitat from the project/activity:² A. Manage discrete anthropogenic disturbances, whether temporary or permanent, so they cover less than 3 percent of 1) biologically significant units (BSUs; total PHMA area associated with a GRS G population area (see Appendix A; Figure 2-2)) and 2) in a proposed project analysis area. See Appendix E (Disturbance Cap Guidance) for additional information on implementing the disturbance cap, including what is and is not considered disturbance and how to calculate the proposed project analysis area, as follows: 1. If the 3 percent human disturbance cap is exceeded on all lands (regardless of ownership) in PHMAs in any given BSU, then no further discrete human disturbances (subject to applicable laws and regulations, such as the 1872 Mining Law, as amended, and valid existing rights) will be permitted, by BLM within GRS G PHMA in any given BSU until the disturbance has been reduced to less than the cap (see Nevada exception under MD SSS 2 a. 3. Appendix E). 2. If the 3 percent disturbance cap is exceeded on all lands (regardless of land ownership) within a proposed project analysis area in a PHMA, then no further anthropogenic disturbance will be permitted by BLM until disturbance in the proposed project analysis area has been reduced to maintain the area under the cap (subject to applicable laws and regulations, such as the 1872 Mining Law, as amended, valid existing rights; see Nevada exception under MD SSS 2 a.	MD SSS 2: In PHMAs, the following conditions will be met in order to avoid and minimize impacts to GRS G and its habitat. The BLM will consider compensatory mitigation actions only when offered voluntarily by a project proponent; when required by law other than FLPMA or as a component of compliance with a States' mitigation plan, program, or authority, such as required by the State of Nevada Executive Order 2018-32 (and any future regulations adopted by the State of Nevada regarding compensatory mitigation, consistent with federal law). A. Manage discrete anthropogenic disturbances, whether temporary or permanent, so they cover less than 3 percent of: 1) biologically significant units (BSUs; total PHMA associated with a GRS G population area [see Appendix A; Figure 2-2]) and 2) in a proposed project analysis area. See Appendix F (Disturbance Cap Guidance) for additional information on implementing the disturbance cap, including what is and is not considered disturbance and how to calculate the proposed project analysis area, as follows: 1. If the 3 percent human disturbance cap is exceeded on all lands (regardless of ownership) in PHMAs in any given BSU, then no further discrete human disturbances (subject to applicable laws and regulations, such as the 1872 Mining Law, as amended, and valid existing rights) will be permitted, by the BLM within PHMA in any given BSU until the disturbance has been reduced to less than the cap (see Nevada exception under MD SSS 2 A. 2a). 2. If the 3 percent disturbance cap is exceeded on all lands	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 GRSG ARMPA (as maintained)	2019 GRSG ARMPA (as maintained)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
3. Appendix E). a. For BLM land in the state of Nevada only, the following disturbance management protocol (DMP) is intended to provide for a 3 percent limitation on disturbance, except in situations where a biological analysis indicates a net conservation gain to the species. • Such discretionary activities that would cause disturbances in excess of 3 percent at the project or BSU scale (see Appendix E) will be prohibited, unless a technical team described below determines that new or site-specific information indicates the project can be modified to result in a net conservation gain at the BSU level. Factors considered by the team will include GRSG abundance and trends, habitat amount and quality, extent of project disturbance, location and density of existing disturbance, project design options and other biological factors. • Any exceptions to the 3 percent disturbance limitation may be approved by the Authorized Officer only with the concurrence of the State Director. The Authorized Officer may not grant an exception unless the NDOW, the USFWS, and the BLM unanimously find that the proposed action satisfies the conditions stated in the above paragraph. Such finding shall initially be made by the technical team, which consists of a	(regardless of land ownership) within a proposed project analysis area in PHMA, then no further anthropogenic disturbance will be permitted by the BLM until disturbance in the proposed project analysis area has been reduced to maintain the area under the cap (subject to applicable laws and regulations, such as the 1872 Mining Law, as amended, valid existing rights; see Nevada exception under MD SSS 2 A. 2a.). a. For BLM land in the state of Nevada only, the following disturbance management protocol is intended to provide for a 3 percent limitation on disturbance, except in situations where a net conservation gain to the species is achieved as a component of compliance with a state mitigation plan, program, or authority, such as required by the State of Nevada's Executive Order 2018-32 (and any future regulations adopted by the State of Nevada regarding compensatory mitigation, consistent with federal law). 3. For BLM land in the state of California only, subject to applicable laws and regulations and valid existing rights, if the average density of one energy and mining facility per 640 acres (the density cap) is exceeded on all lands (regardless of land ownership) in PHMA within a proposed project analysis area, then no further disturbance from energy or mining facilities will be	(See above.)

2015 GRSG ARMPA (as maintained)	2019 GRSG ARMPA (as maintained)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
field biologist or other GRSG experts from each respective agency. In the event the initial finding is not unanimous, the finding may be elevated to the BLM State Director, USFWS State Ecological Services Director and NDOW Director for final resolution. In the event their finding is not unanimous, the exception will not be granted (Appendix E). 3. For BLM land in the state of California only, subject to applicable laws and regulations and valid existing rights, if the average density of one energy and mining facility per 640 acres (the density cap) is exceeded on all lands (regardless of land ownership) in the PHMA within a proposed project analysis area, then no further disturbance from energy or mining facilities will be permitted by BLM: (1) until disturbance in the proposed project analysis area has been reduced to maintain the limit under the cap; or (2) unless the energy or mining facility is co-located into an existing disturbed area. Energy and mining facilities to which this action applies are: • Oil and gas wells and development facilities. • Wind towers • Geothermal wells/developments, and • Active locatable, leasable, and salable developments. 4. For proposed projects to be located, within existing designated utility corridors, the 3% disturbance cap may be exceeded at the project scale if the site specific NEPA analysis indicates that a net conservation gain to the	permitted by the BLM: 1) until disturbance in the proposed project analysis area has been reduced to maintain the limit under the cap; or 2) unless the energy or mining facility is co-located into an existing disturbed area. Energy and mining facilities to which this action applies are: • Oil and gas wells and development facilities. • Wind towers • Geothermal wells/developments, and • Active locatable, leasable, and salable developments. 4. For proposed projects to be located, within existing designated utility corridors, the 3 percent disturbance cap may be exceeded at the project scale if a net conservation gain to the species will be achieved, as a component of compliance with a State's mitigation plan, program, or authority, such as required by the State of Nevada Executive Order 2018-32 (and any future regulations adopted by the State of Nevada regarding compensatory mitigation, consistent with federal law). This exception is limited to projects which fulfill the use for which the corridors were designated (e.g., transmission lines, pipelines, etc.) and the designated width of a corridor will not be exceeded as a result of any project co-location. B. See MD MIT I. Authorized/permitted activities are implemented by adhering to the Required Design Features (RDFs) described in Appendix C, consistent with applicable law. At the site-specific scale, if	(See above.)

2015 GRSG ARMPA (as maintained)	2019 GRSG ARMPA (as maintained)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
species will be achieved. This exception is limited to projects which fulfill the use for which the corridors were designated (ex., transmission lines, pipelines) and the designated width of a corridor will not be exceeded as a result of any project co-location. B. In PHMA, in undertaking BLM management actions, and consistent with valid existing rights and applicable law, in authorizing third-party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation, the BLM will require and ensure mitigation that provides a net conservation gain to the species, including accounting for any uncertainty associated with the effectiveness of such mitigation. The project/activity with associated mitigation (such as the use of the State of Nevada Conservation Credit System) will result in an overall net conservation gain to GRSG (see Appendix F). C. Authorized/permitted activities are implemented by adhering to the RDFs described in Appendix C, consistent with applicable law. At the site-specific scale, if an RDF is not implemented, at least one of the following must be demonstrated in the NEPA analysis associated with the project/activity: 1. A specific RDF is documented to not be applicable to the site-specific conditions of the project/activity (e.g., due to the site limitations or engineering considerations). Economic considerations, such as increased costs, do not necessarily require that an RDF be varied or rendered inapplicable. 2. An alternative RDF is determined to provide equal	an RDF is not implemented, at least one of the following must be demonstrated in the NEPA analysis associated with the project/activity: 1. A specific RDF is documented to not be applicable to the site-specific conditions of the project/activity (e.g., due to the site limitations or engineering considerations). Economic considerations, such as increased costs, do not necessarily require that an RDF be varied or rendered inapplicable. 2. An alternative RDF is determined to provide equal or better protection for GRSG or its habitat. 3. A specific RDF will provide no additional protection to GRSG or its habitat. D. In undertaking BLM management actions, and consistent with valid and existing rights and applicable law in authorizing third-party actions, the BLM will utilize the lower end of the interpreted range of lek buffer-distances and guidance identified in Mainer et al. (2014) to establish the evaluation area around leks that will be used to analyze impacts during project-specific NEPA, including scientifically justifiable departures based on local data, topography, and other factors, in accordance with Appendix B. D. Seasonal restrictions will be applied during the period specified below to manage discretionary surface-disturbing activities and uses on public lands (i.e., anthropogenic disturbances) that are disruptive to GRSG, to prevent disturbances to GRSG during seasonal life-cycle periods: 1. In breeding habitat within 4 miles of active and pending	(See above.)

2015 GRSG ARMPA (as maintained)	2019 GRSG ARMPA (as maintained)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
or better protection for GRSG or its habitat. 3. A specific RDF will provide no additional protection to GRSG or its habitat. D. In management actions, and consistent with valid and existing rights and applicable law in authorizing third-party actions, the BLM will apply the lek buffer-distances identified in the USGS report, Conservation Buffer Distance Estimates for Greater Sage-Grouse—A Review Open File-Report 2014-1239 (Manier et al. 2014), in accordance with Appendix B. E. Seasonal restrictions will be applied during the periods specified below to manage discretionary surface-disturbing activities and uses on public lands (i.e., anthropogenic disturbances) that are disruptive to GRSG, to prevent disturbances to GRSG during seasonal life-cycle periods: 1. In breeding habitat within 4 miles of active and pending GRSG leks from March 1 through June 30: a. Lek—March 1 to May 15 b. Lek hourly restrictions—6 p.m. to 9 a.m. c. Nesting—April 1 to June 30 2. Brood-rearing habitat from May 15 to September 15 a. Early—May 15 to June 15 b. Late—June 15 to September 15 3. Winter habitat from November 1 to February 28 The seasonal dates may be modified due to documented local variations (e.g., higher/lower elevations) or annual climatic fluctuations (e.g., early/late spring, long/heavy winter), in coordination with NDOW and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), in order	GRSG leks from March 1 through June 30 a. Lek—March 1 to May 15 b. Lek hourly restrictions—6 p.m. to 9 a.m. c. Nesting—April 1 to June 30 2. Brood-rearing habitat from May 15 to September 15 a. Early—May 15 to June 15 b. Late—June 15 to September 15 3. Winter habitat from November 1 to February 28 The seasonal dates could be modified or waived (in coordination with NDOW and/or CDFW) based on site-specific information that indicates: i. A project proposal's NEPA document and/or project record, and correspondence from NDOW and/or CDFW demonstrates that any modification (shortening/extending seasonal timeframes or waiving the seasonal timing restrictions altogether) is justified on the basis that it serves to better protect or enhance GRSG and its habitat than if the seasonal timing restrictions are implemented. Under this scenario modifications can occur if: a. A proposed activity will have beneficial or neutral impacts on GRSG. b. Topography or other factors eliminate direct and indirect impacts from visibility and audibility to GRSG and its habitat c. There are documented local variations (e.g., higher/lower elevations)	(See above.)

2015 GRSG ARMPA (as maintained)	2019 GRSG ARMPA (as maintained)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
to better protect GRSG and its habitat. F. Authorizations and permits will limit noise from discretionary activities (during construction, operation, and maintenance) to not exceed 10 decibels above ambient sound levels at least 0.25 mile from active and pending leks, from 2 hours before to 2 hours after sunrise and sunset during the breeding season. See Appendix M, Greater Sage-Grouse Noise Protocol.	and/or annual climatic fluctuations (e.g., early/late spring, long/heavy winter) that indicate the seasonal Life cycle periods are different than presented, or that GRSG are not using the area during a given seasonal life cycle period. ii. Modifications are needed to address an immediate public health and safety concern in a timely manner (e.g., maintaining a road impacted by flooding). iii. The proposed action is determined to be a routine administrative function conducted by federal, state or local governments, including prior existing uses, authorized uses, valid existing rights and existing infrastructure (i.e., rights-of-way for roads) that serve a public purpose and will have no adverse impacts on GRSG or its habitat. E. Authorizations and permits will limit noise from discretionary activities (during construction, operation, and maintenance) to not exceed 10 decibels above ambient sound levels at least 0.25 mile from active and pending leks, from 2 hours before to 2 hours after sunrise and sunset during the breeding season. See Appendix G, Greater Sage-Grouse Noise Protocol.	(See above.)

2015 GRSG ARMPA (as maintained)	2019 GRSG ARMPA (as maintained)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD SSS 3: In GHMAs, the following conditions will be met in order to avoid, minimize, and mitigate any effects on GRSG or its habitat from the project/activity: A. In GHMAs, in undertaking BLM management actions, and consistent with valid existing rights and applicable law, in authorizing third-party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation, the BLM will require and ensure mitigation that provides a net conservation gain to the species, including accounting for any uncertainty associated with the effectiveness of such mitigation. The project/activity with associated mitigation (such as the use of the State of Nevada Conservation Credit System) in GHMAs will result in an overall net conservation gain to GRSG (see Appendix F, Regional Mitigation Strategy). B. Authorized/permitted activities are implemented adhering to the RDFs described in Appendix C, consistent with applicable law. At the site-specific scale, if an RDF is not implemented, at least one of the following must be demonstrated in the NEPA analysis associated with the project/activity: 1. A specific RDF is documented to not be applicable to the site-specific conditions of the project/activity (e.g., due to the site limitations or engineering considerations). Economic considerations, such as increased costs, do not necessarily require that an RDF be varied or rendered inapplicable. 2. An alternative RDF is determined to provide equal or better protection for GRSG or its habitat. 3. A specific RDF will provide no additional protection to GRSG or its habitat.	MD SSS 3: In GHMAs, the following conditions will be met: A. See MD MIT 1. B. Authorized/permitted activities are implemented adhering to the RDFs described in Appendix C, consistent with applicable law. At the site-specific scale, if an RDF is not implemented, at least one of the following must be demonstrated in the NEPA analysis associated with the project/activity: 1. A specific RDF is documented to not be applicable to the site-specific conditions of the project/activity (e.g., due to the site limitations or engineering considerations). Economic considerations, such as increased costs, do not necessarily require that an RDF be varied or rendered inapplicable. 2. An alternative RDF is determined to provide equal or better protection for GRSG or its habitat. 3. A specific RDF will provide no additional protection to GRSG or its habitat. C. In undertaking BLM management actions, and consistent with valid and existing rights and applicable law in authorizing third-party actions, the BLM will utilize the lower end of the interpreted range of lek buffer-distances and guidance identified in Mainer et al. (2014) to establish the evaluation area around leks that will be used to analyze impacts during project-specific NEPA, including scientifically justifiable departures based on local data, topography, and other factors, in accordance with Appendix B. D. Seasonal restrictions will be applied during the period specified below to manage discretionary surface-disturbing activities and uses on public	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 GRSG ARMPA (as maintained)	2019 GRSG ARMPA (as maintained)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
C. In undertaking BLM management actions, and consistent with valid and existing rights and applicable law in authorizing third-party actions, the BLM will apply the lek buffer-distances identified in the USGS report, Conservation Buffer Distance Estimates for Greater Sage-Grouse—A Review Open File Report 2014-1239 (Manier et.al 2014)], in accordance with Appendix B. D. Seasonal restrictions will be applied during the periods specified below to manage discretionary surface-disturbing activities and uses on public lands (i.e., anthropogenic disturbances) that are disruptive to GRSG, to prevent disturbances to GRSG during seasonal life-cycle periods: 1. In breeding habitat within 4 miles of active and pending GRSG leks from March 1 through June 30 a. Lek—March 1 to May 15 b. Lek hourly restrictions—6 p.m. to 9 a.m. c. Nesting—April 1 to June 30 2. Brood-rearing habitat from May 15 to September 15 a. Early—May 15 to June 15 b. Late—June 15 to September 15 3. Winter habitat from November 1 to February 28 The seasonal dates may be modified due to documented local variations (e.g., higher/lower elevations) or annual climatic fluctuations (e.g., early/late spring, long/heavy winter), in coordination with NDOW and CDFW, in order to better protect GRSG and its habitat. E. Authorizations and permits will limit noise from discretionary activities (during construction, operation, and maintenance) to not exceed 10 decibels above ambient sound levels at least 0.25 mile from active and pending leks from 2 hours before to 2 hours	lands (i.e., anthropogenic disturbances) that are disruptive to GRSG, to prevent disturbing GRSG during seasonal life cycle periods, as follows: 1. In breeding habitat within 4 miles of active and pending GRSG leks from March 1 through June 30 a. Lek—March 1 to May 15 b. Lek hourly restrictions—6 p.m. to 9 a.m. c. Nesting—April 1 to June 30 2. Brood-rearing habitat from May 15 to September 15 a. Early—May 15 to June 15 b. Late—June 15 to September 15 3. Winter habitat from November 1 to February 28 The seasonal dates could be modified or waived (in coordination with NDOW and/or CDFW) based on site-specific information that indicates: i. A project proposal's NEPA document and/or project record, and correspondence from NDOW and/or CDFW, demonstrates that any modification (shortening/extending seasonal timeframes or waiving the seasonal timing restrictions altogether) is justified on the basis that it serves to better protect or enhance GRSG and its habitat than if the seasonal timing restrictions are implemented. Under this scenario modifications can occur if: a. A proposed activity will have beneficial or neutral impacts on GRSG. b. Topography or other factors eliminate direct and indirect impacts	(See above.)

2015 GRSG ARMPA (as maintained)	2019 GRSG ARMPA (as maintained)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
after sunrise and sunset during the breeding season. See Appendix M, Greater Sage-Grouse Noise Protocol.	from visibility and audibility to GRSG and its habitat. c. There are documented local variations (e.g., higher/lower elevations) and/or annual climatic fluctuations (e.g., early/late spring, long/heavy winter) that indicate the seasonal life cycle periods are different than presented, or that GRSG are not using the area during a given seasonal life cycle period. ii. Modifications are needed to address an immediate public health and safety concern in a timely manner (e.g., maintaining a road impacted by flooding). iii. The proposed action is determined to be a routine administrative function conducted by federal, state or local governments, including prior existing uses, authorized uses, valid existing rights and existing infrastructure (i.e., rights-of-way for roads) that serve a public purpose and will have no adverse impacts on GRSG or its habitat. E. Authorizations and permits will limit noise from discretionary activities (during construction, operation, and maintenance) to not exceed 10 decibels above ambient sound levels at least 0.25 mile from active and pending leks from 2 hours before to 2 hours after sunrise and sunset during the breeding season. See Appendix G, Greater Sage-Grouse Noise Protocol.	(See above.)

2015 GRSG ARMPA (as maintained)	2019 GRSG ARMPA (as maintained)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD SSS 4: In OHMAs, authorized/permitted activities are implemented adhering to the RDFs described in Appendix C, consistent with applicable law. At the site-specific scale, if an RDF is not implemented, at least one of the following must be demonstrated in the NEPA analysis associated with the project/activity: • A specific RDF is documented to not be applicable to the site-specific conditions of the project/activity (e.g., due to the site limitations or engineering considerations). Economic considerations, such as increased costs, do not necessarily require that an RDF be varied or rendered inapplicable. • An alternative RDF is determined to provide equal or better protection for GRSG or its habitat. • A specific RDF will provide no additional protection to GRSG or its habitat.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD SSS 5: Designate SFA, as shown on Figure 1-3 (2,797,400 acres). SFA will be managed as PHMAs, with the following additional management: • Recommended for withdrawal from the General Mining Act of 1872, subject to valid existing rights • Managed as NSO, without waiver, exception, or modification, for fluid mineral leasing • Prioritized for vegetation management and conservation actions in these areas, including, but not limited to land health assessments, wild horse and burro management actions, review of livestock grazing permits/leases, and habitat restoration (see specific management sections).	MD SSS 5 (Allocation Exception Criteria): In PHMA, GHMA, and OHMA, the State Director may grant an exception to the allocations and stipulations described in Table 2-1: Comparative Summary of Alternatives if one of the following applies (in coordination with NDOW, SETT, and/or CDFW): The location of the proposed activity is determined to be unsuitable (by a biologist with GRSG experience using methods such as Stiver et. al. 2015) and lacks the ecological potential to become marginal or suitable habitat; and will not result in direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts on GRSG and its habitat. Management allocation decisions will not apply to those areas determined to be unsuitable if the area has passed a threshold and lacks the ecological potential to become marginal or suitable habitat.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 GRS G ARMPA (as maintained)	2019 GRS G ARMPA (as maintained)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
(See above.)	ii. The proposed activities impacts will be offset to result in no adverse impacts on GRS G or its habitat, through use of the mitigation hierarchy and the State's mitigation policies and programs, such as the State of Nevada's Executive Order 2018-32 (and any future regulations adopted by the State of Nevada regarding compensatory mitigation, consistent with federal law). In cases where exceptions may be granted for projects with a residual impact, voluntary compensatory mitigation consistent with the State's mitigation policies and programs, such as the State of Nevada's Executive Order 2018-32 (and any future regulations adopted by the State of Nevada regarding compensatory mitigation, consistent with federal law) will be one mechanism by which a proponent achieves the Approved RMPA goals, objectives, and exception criteria. When a proponent volunteers compensatory mitigation as their chosen approach to address residual impacts, the BLM will incorporate those actions into the rationale used to grant an exception. The final decision to grant a waiver, exception, or modification will be based, in part, on criteria consistent with the State's GRS G management plans and policies. iii. The proposed activity will be authorized to address public health and safety concerns, specifically as they relate to federal, state, local government and national priorities. iv. Renewals or re-authorizations of existing infrastructure in previously disturbed sites or expansions of existing infrastructure that do not result	(See above.)

2015 GRSG ARMPA (as maintained)	2019 GRSG ARMPA (as maintained)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
(See above.)	in direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts on GRSG and its habitat. v. The proposed activity is determined to be a routine administrative function conducted by federal, state or local governments, including prior existing uses, authorized uses, valid existing rights and existing infrastructure (i.e., rights-of-way for roads) that serve a public purpose and will have no adverse impacts on GRSG and its habitat, consistent with the State's mitigation policies and programs, such as the State of Nevada's Executive Order 2018-32 (and any future regulations adopted by the State of Nevada regarding compensatory mitigation, consistent with federal law). vi. Exceptions to non-disposal or exchange of lands that are identified for retention in Appendix A, Figure 2-12 could be considered if (a) they are identified for disposal through previous planning efforts or address a Congressional Act (e.g., the respective Lincoln and White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Acts), (b) the agency can demonstrate that the disposal, including land exchanges, will have no adverse direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on GRSG and its habitat, or (c) adverse impacts on GRSG or its habitat will be offset, through use of voluntary compensatory mitigation, consistent with the States' mitigation policies and programs, such as the State of Nevada's Executive Order 2018-32 (and any future regulations adopted by the State of Nevada regarding compensatory mitigation, consistent with federal law).	(See above.)

2015 GRSG ARMPA (as maintained)	2019 GRSG ARMPA (as maintained)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD SSS 6: Cooperate with federal and state agencies, universities, and other organizations to establish and maintain a GRSG telemetry database.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD SSS 7: Work with project proponents to limit project-related noise, seasonally or annually (see MDs SSS 2 and SSS 3), in GRSG habitat where it would be expected to reduce functionality of habitats that support associated GRSG populations. Support the establishment of ambient baseline noise levels for leks in PHMAs and GHMAs. As additional noise-related research and information emerge, specific new limitations appropriate to the type of projects being considered will be evaluated and appropriate measures will be implemented where necessary to minimize the potential for noise impacts on GRSG populations.	No changes made.	No change proposed. Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6
MD SSS 8: As determined by BLM in coordination with NDOW or CDFW, for any surface-disturbing activities involving mineral activities (to the extent possible under existing law) and rights-of-way actions proposed in PHMAs and GHMAs, the proponent will use the services of a qualified biologist approved by the BLM to conduct surveys for GRSG breeding activity during the GRSG breeding season before project activities begin. The surveys must encompass all suitable GRSG habitats within a minimum of 4 miles of the proposed activities. Surveys will be conducted following protocols established by state fish and wildlife agencies during planning operations and during project activities. GRSG seasonal habitat delineations will also be required within a minimum of 4 miles of project activities.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2015 GRSG ARMPA (as maintained)	2019 GRSG ARMPA (as maintained)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD SSS 9a: In Nevada only, the BLM will consult with the Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team (SETT) for application of the “avoid, minimize, and compensate” mitigation strategy and the Conservation Credit System developed by the Nevada Natural Heritage Program and the SETT (2014a, 2014b) or other applicable mitigation system such as outlined in Appendix I. This will be to ensure that a net conservation gain of GRSG habitat is achieved in mitigating human disturbances in PHMAs and GHMAs (see Appendix F) on all agency-authorized activities. The specifics of the coordination will be identified in an MOU between the agencies.	See MD MIT I	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 9b: In California only, the BLM will follow the BLM mitigation strategy outlined in Appendix F.	See MD MIT I	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 10: When necessary or as new data becomes available, site-specific NEPA analysis on use authorizations in PHMA and GHMA will include project level adaptive management responses to address changed conditions in GRSG habitat and population trends (see Appendix J, Adaptive Management Plan).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 11: Design and construct fences consistent with BLM H-1741-I, Fencing Standards Manual (BLM 1990), and apply the Sage-Grouse Fence Collision Risk Tool to Reduce Bird Strikes (NRCS 2012). Bring existing fencing into compliance as opportunities arise.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

¹The screening criteria would not be applicable to vegetation treatments being conducted to enhance GRSG habitat.

^{2 & 3}The conditions would not be applicable to vegetation treatments being conducted to enhance GRSG habitat, with the exceptions of seasonal restrictions and noise.

**Changes in Management from the 2015 ARMPA to the 2019 ARMPA
Goals, Objectives, and Management Decisions
(Continued)**

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Disease	Disease	—
Objective SSS 5: Coordinate with state agencies to monitor trends of diseases, such as West Nile virus, in the subregion to determine if mitigation or additional RDFs need to be applied (consistent with applicable law) to use authorizations.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
MD SSS 12: When developing or modifying water developments on BLM-administered lands in PHMAs, GHMAs, and OHMAs and in accordance with state water law and subject to valid existing rights, use applicable RDFs consistent with applicable law to mitigate potential impacts from West Nile virus. Bring existing water developments into compliance as opportunities arise.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
Predation	Predation	—
Objective SSS 6: Manage human uses on public lands to reduce the effects of predation on GRSG.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
MD SSS 13: Require authorizations to include stipulations and RDFs consistent with applicable law to reduce or eliminate opportunities to attract and provide nesting, cover, or perches for predators in PHMAs and GHMAs.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 14: Coordinate with other federal, state, county, and tribal governments and local working groups to reduce GRSG deaths due to predation where it is determined to be additive or is a limiting factor influencing GRSG populations.		
MD SSS 15: Reduce and eliminate artificial hunting perches and nesting surfaces for aerial predators (e.g., remove fences, nonworking fences, and power lines and install anti-perch devices on existing and new power lines).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Adaptive Management (Also see Appendix J)	—	—
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
No similar action.	MD SSS 16: PHMA, GHMA, and OHMA boundaries are based on composite management categories contained within USGS's <i>Spatially Explicit Modeling of Annual and Seasonal Habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse (Centrocercus urophasianus) in Nevada and Northeastern California—an updated decision-support tool for management</i> (Coates et al. 2016), (see Appendix A: Maps). • Manage 9,265,800 acres as PHMA • Manage 5,748,000 acres as GHMA • Manage 4,868,900 acres as OHMA BLM recognizes that landscape level mapping may not accurately reflect on-the-ground conditions. Therefore, the HMAs (Figure 2-1) do not constitute a land use plan decision but rather a landscape level reference of relative habitat suitability. When a proposed project is thought to be in an area that is unsuitable for GRSG within PHMA, GHMA, and/or OHMA, habitat assessments of the project site and its surrounding areas will be conducted by a biologist with GRSG experience using BLM-approved methods such as Stiver et al. 2015 and compliant with current BLM policy, to identify suitable, marginal, or unsuitable GRSG habitats at multiple scales. This habitat assessment process will inform criteria (i) under Issue: Allocation Exception Process, Management Alignment Alternative and Proposed Plan Amendment. The BLM will track all on-the-ground assessments and share this information with USGS and the States of Nevada and California to consider when updating HMA maps in the future.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD SSS 17: As site-specific GRSG data (habitat assessments, lek counts, telemetry, etc.) is collected, the information will be included into future modeling efforts using the “<i>Spatially Explicit Modeling of Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat in Nevada and Northeastern California</i>” (Coates et al. 2014) to reflect the most up-to-date spatial representation of GRSG habitat categories. Through plan maintenance or plan amendment/revision, as appropriate, and in consultation with the Nevada Department of Wildlife and USFWS, based on the best scientific information, the updated modeling efforts may be adopted and appropriate allocation decisions and management actions will be applied to PHMA, GHMA, and OHMA. Future modeling efforts to incorporate site-specific GRSG data will utilize the same modeling methods (as described under <i>Methods and Results</i> in Coates et al. 2014) used to develop the current Nevada and Northeastern California Subregions’ GRSG habitat management categories. The addition of site-specific GRSG data will allow for the refinement of the spatial representation of the GRSG habitat management categories.	MD SSS 17: Consistent with the State of Nevada’s Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan (2014, as amended) and CDFW’s management recommendations, the HMA mapping process will be reviewed and refined every 3 to 5 years, or when new data are incorporated in the model. New or improved spatial data (e.g., additional GRSG telemetry data, updated or improved vegetation community data) will be incorporated during the refinement process. The review and refinement process will be scientifically based and include review and input from the Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team (SETT), NDOW, BLM, USFS, USFWS, and local agencies as appropriate. For refinements on California BLM managed lands, this process will also include CDFW. Other stakeholders will be encouraged to participate in the process by submitting relevant information to the listed agencies. The USGS’ habitat suitability modeling processes (Coates et al. 2016) will be the basis for future refinements, which may include results of BLM habitat suitability determinations shared with the USGS for their consideration. As these HMAs boundaries are adjusted and approved by the States of Nevada and California, adjustments to the BLM’s PHMA, GHMA, and/or OHMA boundaries (along with the existing allocation decisions and management actions tied to these areas) will be made by the BLM through plan maintenance or amendment, as appropriate.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD SSS 18: A BSU (see Appendix A; Figure 2-2) that has hit a soft trigger due to vegetation disturbance will be a priority for restoration treatments consistent with Fire and Invasives Assessment Tool (FIAT) (Appendix J).	MD SSS 18: The BLM will implement the Adaptive Management Strategy as described in Appendix D. The revised soft and hard population triggers, warnings, and new BSU and lek cluster boundaries were derived from USGS's <i>Hierarchical Population Monitoring of Greater Sage-Grouse (Centrocercus urophasianus) in Nevada and California— Identifying Populations for Management at the Appropriate Spatial Scale: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2017– 1089</i> (Coates et al. 2017). These triggers, warnings, BSU boundaries, and lek cluster boundaries can be found in Appendix D. Soft and hard trigger responses will be removed when the criteria for recovery have been met (see Appendix D, Longevity of Responses). Removal of the soft and hard trigger responses returns management direction in the affected lek cluster and/or BSU to the management directions that were in place prior to reaching a trigger.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD SSS 19: If a soft trigger is reached, the BLM will identify the causal factor and apply additional project-level adaptive management and/or mitigation measures contained in the authorization (and for future similar authorizations), to alleviate the specific or presumptive causes in the decline of GRSG populations or its habitats and include the following: • The adjustment in management would be based on the causal factor and would affect only the area being impacted in the lek cluster or other appropriate scale (e.g., BSU) • GRSG populations and habitat would continue to be monitored annually • If the causal factor were not readily discernable, then an interdisciplinary team, including the BLM, Forest Service (as applicable), and state wildlife agency representatives, would identify the appropriate mitigation or adjusted management actions in a timely manner	No similar action. (MD SSS 19 was removed)	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 20: Once a hard trigger has been reached, all responses in Table J-1 and Table J-2 in Appendix J will be implemented. This includes where soft triggers have been reached for both population and habitat.	No similar action. (MD SSS 20 was removed)	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 21: When a hard trigger is hit in a PAC that has multiple BSUs, including those that cross state lines, the WAFWA Management Zone GRSG Conservation Team will convene to determine the cause, will put project level responses in place, as appropriate, and will discuss further appropriate actions to be applied. The team will also investigate the status of the hard triggers in other BSUs in the PAC and will invoke the appropriate plan response. Adopting any further actions at the plan level may require initiating a plan amendment process.	No similar action. (MD SSS 21 was removed)	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD SSS 22: As determined by BLM in coordination with NDOW, for any surface-disturbing activities involving mineral activities and rights-of-way actions (with the possible exception of short duration activities outside of seasonal GRSG habitats) BLM will require that active and pending leks be monitored annually within 4 miles of disturbance until the use terminates and all disturbances have been restored. The proponent will fund the services of an independent qualified biologist approved by the BLM, in coordination with NDOW or CDFW, consistent with applicable law.	MD SSS 22: As determined by the BLM in coordination with the state wildlife agencies, for any surface-disturbing activities involving mineral activities and rights-of-way actions (with the possible exception of short duration activities outside of seasonal GRSG habitats) BLM will require that active and pending leks be monitored annually within 4 miles of disturbance until the use terminates and all disturbances have been restored. The proponent will fund the services of an independent qualified biologist approved by the BLM, in coordination with NDOW or CDFW, consistent with applicable law.	No change proposed.
MD SSS 23: In making amendments to this plan, the BLM will coordinate with the FWS as BLM continues to meet its objective of conserving, enhancing and restoring GRSG habitat by reducing, minimizing or eliminating threats to GRSG and its habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD SSS 24: The hard and soft trigger data will be analyzed as soon as it becomes available after the signing of the ROD and then at a minimum, analyzed annually thereafter.	No similar action. (MD SSS 24 was removed)	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
VEGETATION (VEG) SAGEBRUSH-STEPPE	VEGETATION (VEG)	—
Objectives:	Objectives:	—
Objective VEG I: In all SFA and PHMAs, the desired condition is to maintain all lands ecologically capable of producing sagebrush (but no less than 70%) with a minimum of 15% sagebrush cover or as consistent with specific ecological site conditions. The attributes necessary to sustain these habitats are described in Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health (BLM Tech Ref 1734-6).	Objective VEG I: In PHMAs, the desired condition is to maintain all lands ecologically capable of producing sagebrush (but no less than 70%) with a minimum of 15% sagebrush cover or as consistent with specific ecological site conditions. The attributes necessary to sustain these habitats are described in Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health (BLM Tech Ref 1734-6).	No change proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Objective VEG 2: On public lands, establish, maintain, and enhance a resistant and resilient sagebrush vegetative community and restore sagebrush vegetation communities to reduce GRSG habitat fragmentation and maintain or reestablish GRSG habitat connectivity over the long term (Chambers et al. 2014).	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Objective VEG 3: Manage PHMAs and GHMAs for vegetation composition and structure, consistent with ecological site potential and to achieve GRSG habitat objectives (Table 2-2).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
MD VEG 1: Review Objective SSS 4 and apply MDs SSS 1 through SSS 4 when reviewing and analyzing projects and activities proposed in GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD VEG 2: Incorporate GRSG habitat objectives (Table 2-2) in the design of habitat restoration projects and manage treated areas to meet GRSG habitat objectives.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD VEG 3: Use BLM GRSG habitat maps, habitat objectives (see Table 2-2 for GRSG habitat objectives), ecological site potential, state and transition models, and concepts of resistance and resilience (Appendix H) to prioritize habitat restoration projects, including those following wildfire, to address the most limiting GRSG habitat vegetation components and to connect seasonal ranges. Habitat restoration includes the following: i. Restoring sagebrush canopy in PHMAs and GHMAs to meet GRSG habitat objectives (Table 2-2) ii. Reestablishing perennial grasses and native forbs in PHMAs and GHMAs iii. Reducing or removing pinyon or juniper in PHMAs and GHMAs to enhance seasonal range connectivity and to maintain sagebrush canopy and understory integrity iv. Restore areas affected by wildfire and the continuing invasive annual fire cycle to meet GRSG habitat objectives (Table 2-2) iv. Prioritize restoration in areas that have not crossed an ecological threshold	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD VEG 4: Plan vegetation treatments (including GRSG habitat treatments) in a landscape-scale context to address habitat fragmentation, effective patch size, invasive species presence, and intact sagebrush community protection, consistent with the GRSG habitat objectives identified in Table 2-2.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD VEG 5: For Wyoming, mountain, and basin big sagebrush communities in PHMAs and GHMAs: i. Prioritize treatments that focus on enhancing, reestablishing, or maintaining the most limiting GRSG habitat component ii. Reestablish sagebrush to meet GRSG habitat objectives (Table 2-2) iii. Manage sagebrush communities to achieve age-class, structure, cover, and species composition objectives in GRSG habitat (Table 2-2) iv. Restore herbaceous understory in brush-dominated areas to meet GRSG habitat objectives (Table 2-2) iv. Treat areas that contain cheatgrass and other invasive or noxious species to minimize competition and favor establishment of desired species (Table 2-2) v. Treat disturbed areas in accordance with FIAT (see Appendix H), including implementation-level assessments	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD VEG 6: Manage for establishment of sagebrush in unmaintained nonnative seedings (e.g., crested wheatgrass seedings) in or next to GRSG habitat to meet habitat objectives (Table 2-2).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD VEG 7: In PHMAs and GHMAs, give preference to native seeds for restoration, based on availability, adaptation (ecological site potential), and probability of success. Where the probability of success or adapted seed availability is low, nonnative seeds may be used, as long as they support GRSG habitat objectives. Choose native plant species outlined in Ecological Site Descriptions (ESDs), where available, to revegetate sites. Emphasize use of local seed collected from intact stands or greenhouse cultivation. If the commercial supply of appropriate native seeds and plants is limited, work with the BLM Native Plant Materials Development Program, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Plant Material Program, or State Plant Material Programs. If currently available supplies are limited, use the materials that provide the greatest benefit for GRSG. In all cases, seed must be certified as weed free.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD VEG 8: To increase seeding success and to ensure effective soil and seed contact, consider the use of specialized seed drills or other proven and effective methods that may become available based on new science.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 9a: For Nevada BLM-managed lands, before implementation, establish project monitoring sites where vegetation treatment is planned. Treatment areas will be monitored both pre- and post- treatment on a multiple-year basis to ensure that project objectives are achieved.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD VEG 9b: For California BLM-managed lands, before implementation, establish project monitoring sites where vegetation treatment is planned. Treatment areas will be monitored both pre- and post- treatment on a multiple-year basis to ensure that project objectives are achieved. Juniper treatments will be monitored in accordance with the Sage Steppe Ecosystem Restoration FEIS (BLM 2008).	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 10: On public lands, where the attributes, quality, or lack of GRSG winter habitat has been identified as a limiting factor, emphasize vegetation treatments in known winter habitat to enhance quality or reduce wildfire risk around or in winter habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 11: In perennial grass, invasive annual grass, and conifer-invaded cover types, restore sagebrush steppe with local sagebrush seedlings or planted seedlings where feasible.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 12: Continue to coordinate with NDOW, CDFW, and NRCS for all development or habitat restoration proposals in PHMAs and GHMAs. Also, coordinate with the Nevada SETT, tribes, and local working groups on projects proposed in sagebrush ecosystems.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
VEGETATION (VEG)	VEGETATION (VEG)	—
Conifer Encroachment	Conifer Encroachment	—
Objectives:	Objectives:	—
Objective VEG 4: In accordance with the vegetation dynamic development tool (VDDT; Appendix L), improve GRSG habitat by removing invading conifers in the number of acres shown in Table 2-2 by decade for the next 50 years.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
MD VEG 13: Remove conifers encroaching into sagebrush habitats, in a manner that considers tribal cultural values. Prioritize treatments closest to occupied GRSG habitats and near occupied leks and where juniper encroachment is phase I and phase 2. Use of site-specific analysis and tools like VDDT and FIAT (see Appendix L for VDDT and Appendix H for FIAT) will help refine the location for specific areas to be treated.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD VEG 14: Do not construct or create new roads (temporary or permanent), skid trails, or landings in phase I pinyon or juniper removal areas during project implementation for vegetation treatments. Administrative access, including off-road travel with heavy equipment and vehicles, will be allowed during implementation.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 15: Only treat habitats in late phase II or phase III pinyon or juniper condition to create movement corridors, connect habitats, or reduce the potential for catastrophic fire (see Table 2-3).	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Vegetation (VEG)	Vegetation (VEG)	—
Invasive Species	Invasive Species	—
Objectives:	Objectives:	—
Objective VEG 5: Reduce the amount of GRSG habitat loss due to wide-spread wildfires and invasion by nonnative species.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Objective VEG 6: Control invasive species infestations in GRSG habitat already compromised by invasion.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Objective VEG 7: In accordance with the VDDT (Appendix L), improve GRSG habitat by treating annual grasses in the number of acres shown in Table 2-4 by decade using the FIAT (Appendix H).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
MD VEG 16: Prevent the establishment of invasive species into uninvaded areas in PHMAs and GHMAs through properly managed grazing and by conducting systematic and strategic detection surveys, collecting data, mapping these areas, and engaging in early response to contain and eradicate invasion if it occurs.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD VEG 17: Control the spread and introduction of noxious weeds listed by the Nevada Department of Agriculture and California Department of Food and Agriculture (NAC 555.010, Classes A through C, inclusive and 3 CCR 4500, Noxious Weed Species Pest Rating A, B, C, and Q) and undesirable nonnative plant species (Gelbard and Belnap 2003; Bergquist et al. 2007). Work with federal, state, local, and tribal groups, such as Weed Control Districts, Cooperative Weed Management Areas, and Conservation Districts, in detecting and treating nonnative species.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 18: Where scientific support is lacking, carefully construct treatments to rigorously assess the value or detriment of untested methods to determine their value for future application to GRSG habitats.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 19: The BLM will cooperate with other federal, state, tribal and local agencies along with academia in researching the development of biological control agents and deploying emerging technologies as they become available.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 20: Monitor and adjust treatment sites and methods as needed to ensure effectiveness of efforts to prevent and control invasive species and restore GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD VEG 21: Assess invasive annual grass presence and distribution before implementing vegetation restoration projects to determine if treatments are required to treat invasive annual grasses.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 22: Treat sites in PHMAs and GHMAs that contain invasive species infestations through an integrated pest management (IPM) approach, using fire, chemical, mechanical, and biological (e.g., targeted grazing) methods, based on site potential and in accordance with FIAT (Appendix H). Treat areas that contain cheatgrass and other invasive or noxious species to minimize competition and favor establishment of desired species.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Vegetation (VEG) Riparian and Wetlands Habitat	Vegetation (VEG) Riparian and Wetlands Habitat	—
Objectives:	Objectives:	—
Objective VEG 8: Manage riparian areas in PHMAs and GHMAs for vegetation composition and structure, consistent with ecological site potential and to achieve GRSG habitat objectives (Table 2-2).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Objective VEG 9: Manage upland habitat associated with riparian areas to promote cover relative to site potential to facilitate brood-rearing habitat (Table 2-2).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Objective VEG 10: Where riparian function has been compromised or lost, manage to restore riparian function and meet GRSG habitat objectives (Table 2-2).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Objective VEG 11: In riparian and wet meadow areas, inventory, monitor, and control invasive species in PHMAs and GHMAs.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
MD VEG 23: Design and implement vegetation treatments in PHMAs and GHMAs to restore, enhance, and maintain riparian areas (Table 2-2).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD VEG 24: Consider an array of vegetation treatments to increase edge and expand mesic areas in PHMAs and GHMAs where riparian extent is limited by shrub encroachment (Table 2-2).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD VEG 25: Manage lotic riparian habitats in conjunction with adjacent terraces and valley bottoms as natural fuel breaks to reduce the size and frequency of wildfires in PHMAs and GHMAs.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
Vegetation (VEG) Climate Change Objectives:	Vegetation (VEG) Climate Change Objectives:	—
Objective VEG 12: Use the landscape approach and promote landscape-scale, ecosystem-based actions to enhance resiliency and sustainability of PHMAs and GHMAs to climate stress.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
Objective VEG 13: In PHMAs and GHMAs, manage risks of GRSG habitat degradation or loss from landscape stressors of drought, invasive species, and wildfire exacerbated by climate change to maintain existing GRSG populations and habitats.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
MD VEG 26: As climate change data become available through Rapid Ecoregional Assessments or other ecological studies, identify areas of unfragmented GRSG habitat and corridors that provide the life-cycle and genetic transfer needs for GRSG and adjust resource management practices, as needed.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 27: Cooperate with multiple agencies and stakeholders to establish and maintain a network of climate monitoring sites and stations.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
FIRE AND FUELS MANAGEMENT (FIRE) WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT	FIRE AND FUELS MANAGEMENT (FIRE) WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT	—
OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVE	—
Objective FIRE 1: The protection of human life is the single, overriding priority. Setting priorities among protecting human communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources will be done based on the values to be protected, human health and safety, and the costs of protection. GRSG habitat will be prioritized commensurate with property values and other critical or sensitive habitats to be protected, with the goal to restore, enhance, and maintain areas suitable for GRSG.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
MD FIRE 1: Support the conservation of GRSG habitat objectives (Table 2-2) through appropriate wildfire management planning, coordination, staffing, resource allocations, training, equipment, and management oversight.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD FIRE 2: Prioritize fire operations and fuels management decisions in SFA first, followed by PHMAs outside of SFA in accordance with the implementation-level FIAT assessments, and then GHMAs for conservation and protection during fire operations and fuels management decision-making. When suppression resources are widely available, place maximum efforts on limiting fire growth in GHMAs as well.	MD FIRE 2: Prioritize fire operations and fuels management decisions in PHMA in accordance with the implementation-level FIAT assessments, and then GHMAs for conservation and protection during fire operations and fuels management decision-making. When suppression resources are widely available, place maximum efforts on limiting fire growth in GHMAs as well.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD FIRE 3: BLM planning units, in coordination with the USFWS and relevant state agencies, will annually review the GRSG landscape wildfire and invasive species habitat assessments (FIAT). Based on this review, revised actions to ameliorate invasive species must be incorporated into the assessment.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD FIRE 4: Compile relevant field office- and district-level information into the statewide GRSG Annual Operating Handbook for use by resource advisors, wildfire crews, and agency administrators. The handbook will contain GRSG maps (including habitat and fuels treatment maps) and lists of state and local GRSG resource advisors and their contact information, local guidance, and other relevant information for each field office and district, aggregated into a statewide document.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 5: Coordinate and collaborate with federal, tribal, state, and local governments and associations sanctioned through either California or Nevada that meet fire standards for effective and efficient wildfire response.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 6: Strengthen and improve interagency wildfire prevention statewide through targeted wildfire prevention messages, including providing education on GRSG habitat loss, updating interagency agreements, and conducting wildfire prevention workshops and demonstration projects.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
FIRE AND FUELS MANAGEMENT (FIRE) Pre-Suppression	FIRE AND FUELS MANAGEMENT (FIRE) Pre-Suppression	—
OBJECTIVE		—
Objective FIRE 2: Use pre-suppression efforts to reduce the size and impact of wildfires in SFA, PHMAs, and GHMAs.	Objective FIRE 2: Use pre-suppression efforts to reduce the size and impact of wildfires in PHMAs and GHMAs.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Objective FIRE 3: Protect post-fire treatments in SFA first, followed by PHMAs outside of SFA, and then GHMAs from subsequent wildfires.	Objective FIRE 3: Protect post-fire treatments in PHMAs first, followed by GHMAs from subsequent wildfires.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
MD FIRE 7: Identify and prioritize areas that are vulnerable to wildfires and prescribe actions important for GRSG protection, in accordance with FIAT (see Appendix H, USDI 2015) and further refined in the implementation-level FIAT assessments.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD FIRE 8: Create fire management plans to guide wildfire suppression in order to protect PHMAs and GHMAs.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD FIRE 9: Before the fire season, train GRSG resource advisors on wildfire suppression organization, objectives, tactics, and procedures to develop a cadre of qualified individuals. Involve state wildlife agency experts in fire operations through the following: • Instruction of resource advisors during preseason trainings • Qualification as resource advisors • Coordination with resource advisors before fire season • Contribution to incident planning with information, such as habitat features or other key data useful in fire decision-making	No changes made.	No change proposed.
FIRE AND FUELS MANAGEMENT (FIRE) Suppression	FIRE AND FUELS MANAGEMENT (FIRE) Suppression	—
OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVE	—
Objective FIRE 4: Use suppression to reduce the size and impact of wildfires in SFA, PHMAs, and GHMAs.	Objective FIRE 4: Use suppression to reduce the size and impact of wildfires in PHMAs and GHMAs.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
MD FIRE 10: Provide local GRSG habitat maps to dispatch offices and extend attack incident commanders to prioritize wildfire suppression resources and design suppression tactics. Ensure GRSG habitat maps and suppression strategies are uploaded and updated in WFDSs.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD FIRE 11: Assign a resource advisor with GRSG habitat expertise or with access to GRSG habitat expertise to all extended attack fires in or near SFA, PHMAs, and GHMAs.	MD FIRE 11: Assign a resource advisor with GRSG habitat expertise or with access to GRSG habitat expertise to all extended attack fires in or near PHMAs and GHMAs.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD FIRE 12: In advance of critical fire weather, station additional federal fire suppression resources to optimize a quick and efficient response in SFA, PHMAs, and GHMAs.	MD FIRE 12: In advance of critical fire weather, station additional federal fire suppression resources to optimize a quick and efficient response in PHMAs and GHMAs.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD FIRE 13: During periods of multiple fires, ensure line officers prioritize decisions by coordinating with resource advisors.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 14: To the extent possible, locate wildfire suppression facilities (e.g., base camps, spike camps, drop points, staging areas, and helicopter bases) in areas to avoid disturbing PHMAs and GHMAs. These include disturbed areas, grasslands, roads and trails, or in other areas with existing disturbance or minimal sagebrush cover.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD FIRE 15: Document fire operations (e.g., disturbance) in PHMAs and GHMAs for potential follow-up coordination and restoration.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD FIRE 16: Use indirect attack tactics (including burn-out operations) when: Direct attack is not effective in stopping fires with the potential of becoming significantly larger due to fuel loading, weather conditions, and fire behavior. If firefighter and public safety would be threatened or compromised	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 17: Use retardant, mechanized equipment, and other available resources to minimize burned acreage during initial attack. As safety allows, conduct mop-up where the black adjoins unburned islands, dog legs, or other habitat features to minimize sagebrush loss.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 18: Minimize unnecessary cross-country vehicle travel during fire operations in GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
FIRE AND FUELS MANAGEMENT (FIRE) Fuels Management	FIRE AND FUELS MANAGEMENT (FIRE) Fuels Management	—
OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVE	—
Objective FIRE 5: Protect and enhance PHMAs and GHMAs and areas of connectivity that support GRSG populations, including large contiguous blocks of sagebrush, through fuels management and incorporation of the FIAT assessment (Appendix H).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MANAGEMENT DECISIONS (MD):	MANAGEMENT DECISIONS (MD):	—
MD FIRE 19: Review Objective SSS 4 and apply MDs SSS 1 through SSS 4 when reviewing and analyzing projects and activities proposed in GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD FIRE 20: In PHMAs and GHMAs, apply fuels treatments on a landscape level to modify fire behavior, intensity, complexity (fire patchiness), size, and effects in which fire management efforts are enhanced.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD FIRE 21: Establish and maintain fuel breaks to protect GRSG and its habitat to limit fire size and mitigate fire behavior to increase suppression effectiveness. When possible, establish fuel breaks next to roads or other previously disturbed areas.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 22: Use a full range of fuels management strategies and tactics within acceptable risk levels across the range of GRSG habitat consistent with land use plan direction.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD FIRE 23: If prescribed fire is used in GRSG habitat, the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan will address: • Why alternative techniques were not selected as a viable option • How GRSG goals and objectives will be met by its use • How the COT report objectives will be addressed and met • A risk assessment to address how potential threats to GRSG habitat will be minimized. Allow prescribed fire as a vegetation or fuels treatment, and it shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the burn plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Prescribed fire can be used to meet specific fuels objectives that will protect GRSG habitat in PHMAs (e.g., creation of fuel breaks that would disrupt the fuel continuity across the landscape in stands where annual invasive grasses are a minor component in the understory, burning slash piles from conifer reduction treatments, used as a component with other treatment methods to combat annual grasses and restore native plant communities). Allow prescribed fire in known winter range, and it shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the burn plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Any prescribed fire in winter habitat will need to be designed to strategically reduce wildfire risk around and/or in the winter range and designed to protect winter range habitat quality.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD FIRE 24: In coordination with the USFWS and relevant state agencies and in accordance with FIAT (see Appendix H), develop a fuels management strategy for the BLM with large blocks of GRSG habitat. The strategy shall include an up-to-date fuels profile, land use plan direction, current and potential habitat fragmentation, sagebrush and GRSG ecological factors, and active vegetation management steps to provide critical breaks in fuel continuity. When developing this strategy, consider the risk of increased habitat fragmentation from a proposed action versus the risk of large-scale fragmentation posed by wildfires if the action were not taken.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 25: Design fuels treatments through an interdisciplinary team process to expand, enhance, maintain, and protect PHMAs and GHMAs. Fuel reduction techniques, such as prescribed fire and chemical, biological (including targeted grazing), and mechanical treatments, are acceptable. Use green strips and fuel breaks, where appropriate, to protect seeding from subsequent fires.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD FIRE 26: In coordination with the USFWS and relevant state agencies and in accordance with FIAT (see Appendix H), BLM will identify treatment needs for wildfire and invasive species management. Ongoing treatment needs will be coordinated on state and regional scales and across jurisdictional boundaries for long-term conservation of GRSG and its habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 27: On project completion, monitor and manage fuels projects to ensure long-term success, including persistence of seeded species and other treatment components. Control invasive vegetation post-treatment.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD FIRE 28: Design fuels treatments to protect sagebrush ecosystems, modify fire behavior, restore ecological function, and create landscape patterns that most benefit PHMAs and GHMAs and promote use by GRSG.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD FIRE 29: Train fuels treatment personnel on GRSG biology, habitat requirements, and identification of areas used locally.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 30: Use burning prescriptions that minimize undesirable effects on vegetation or soils (e.g., minimize killing desirable perennial plant species and reduce risk of annual grass invasion) and incorporate FIAT assessment (Chambers et. al 2014) in PHMAs and GHMAs.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD FIRE 31: Ensure proposed sagebrush treatments are planned with interdisciplinary input from the BLM and coordinated with USFWS and state fish and wildlife agencies to meet GRSG habitat objectives (Table 2-2).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD FIRE 32: Design vegetation treatments in areas of high fire frequency to facilitate firefighter safety, reduce the potential acres burned, and reduce the fire risk to GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 33a: For Nevada BLM-administered lands, before implementation, establish project monitoring sites where fuels management projects are planned. Monitor treatment areas both pre- and post-treatment on a multiple-year basis to ensure that project objectives are achieved.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD FIRE 33b: For California BLM-managed lands, before implementation, establish project monitoring sites where fuels management projects are planned. Monitor treatment areas both pre- and post- treatment on a multiple-year basis to ensure that project objectives are achieved. Juniper treatments will be monitored in accordance with the Sage Steppe Ecosystem Restoration FEIS (BLM 2008).	No changes made.	No change proposed.
FIRE AND FUELS MANAGEMENT (FIRE) Post Fire Management	FIRE AND FUELS MANAGEMENT (FIRE) Post Fire Management	—
OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVE	—
Objective FIRE 6: Retain, protect, and improve intact unburned sagebrush communities in burned areas by incorporating the FIAT assessment (Chambers et. al 2014).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
MD FIRE 34: Review Objective SSS 4 and apply MDs SSS I through SSS 4 when reviewing and analyzing projects and activities proposed in GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 35: Prioritize post-fire treatments in PHMAs and GHMAs to maximize benefits to GRSG and its habitat. Focus post-fire treatments on replacing or reestablishing burned sagebrush habitat with the appropriate cover and structure to support GRSG habitat objectives (Table 2-2).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD FIRE 36: In post-fire rehabilitation plans in PHMAs and GHMAs, design revegetation projects to accomplish the following: • Maintain and enhance unburned intact sagebrush communities when at risk from adjacent threats • Stabilize soils • Reestablish hydrologic function • Maintain and enhance biological integrity • Promote plant resiliency • Limit expansion or dominance or invasive species • Reestablish native species	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

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MD FIRE 37: Implement post-fire treatments in PHMAs and GHMAs that emphasize stabilizing, rehabilitating, and restoring sagebrush ecosystems damaged by wildfires, including controlling invasive species.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD FIRE 38: Increase post-fire treatment activities in PHMAs and GHMAs through the use of integrated funding opportunities with other resource programs and partners.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD FIRE 39: Following post-fire treatments, monitor and implement management actions in PHMAs and GHMAs that promote healthy perennial grass, shrub and forb communities, and lentic (slow-moving freshwater) and lotic (rapid freshwater) riparian habitats so as to further restoration and ensure long-term persistence of seeded or pre-burn native plants, in accordance with GRSG habitat objectives (Table 2-2).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD FIRE 40: Evaluate the potential for sagebrush island plantings based on ESDs in large burn areas that may lack sufficient sagebrush seed sources in order to ensure the reestablishment of sagebrush in GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 41: Monitor post-fire rehabilitation treatments on a multiple-year basis to ensure that project objectives are achieved.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 42: Use GRSG habitat objectives (Table 2-2) and emphasize the use of native plant species in post-fire rehabilitation (e.g., reseeding), recognizing that nonnative species may be necessary, depending on the availability of native seed and prevailing site conditions. Selected species shall maintain site ecological function based on pre-burn conditions and anticipated threat of invasive and noxious weed establishment. Use ESDs and state and transition models if available.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
LIVESTOCK GRAZING (LG)	LIVESTOCK GRAZING (LG)	LIVESTOCK GRAZING (LG)
OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVE	—
Objective LG 1: Manage permitted livestock grazing to maintain and/or enhance PHMAs and GHMAs to meet or make progress towards meeting all GRSG life-cycle requirements and habitat objectives (Table 2-2), based on site potential.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
MD LG 1: When livestock management practices are determined to not be compatible with meeting or making progress towards achievable habitat objectives following appropriate consultation, cooperation and coordination, implement changes in grazing management through grazing authorization modifications, or allotment management plan implementation. Potential modifications include, but are not limited to, changes in: • Season or timing of use; • Numbers of livestock; • Distribution of livestock use; • Duration and/or level of use; • Kind of livestock (e.g., cattle, sheep, horses, or goats) (Briske et al. 2011); • Grazing schedules (including rest or deferment); • Class of livestock; • Grazing schedules (including rest or deferment) • Making allotment unavailable to grazing • *Not in priority order	MD LG 1: When livestock management practices are determined to not be compatible with meeting or making progress towards achievable habitat objectives following appropriate consultation, cooperation and coordination, implement changes in grazing management through grazing authorization modifications, or allotment management plan implementation and consistent with 43 CFR 4160.1 and IM-2018-023. Potential modifications include, but are not limited to, changes in: • Season or timing of use; • Numbers of livestock; • Distribution of livestock use; • Duration and/or level of use; • Kind of livestock (e.g., cattle, sheep, horses, or goats) (Briske et al. 2011); • Grazing schedules (including rest or deferment); • Class of livestock; • Grazing schedules (including rest or deferment) • Making allotment unavailable to grazing • *Not in priority order	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD LG 2: The BLM will prioritize (1) the review of grazing permits/leases, in particular to determine if modification is necessary prior to renewal, and (2) the processing of grazing permits/leases in SFA followed by PHMAs outside of the SFA. In setting workload priorities, precedence will be given to existing permits/leases in these areas not meeting land health standards, with focus on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows. The BLM may use other criteria for prioritization to respond to urgent natural resource concerns (e.g., fire) and legal obligations.	MD LG 2: The BLM will prioritize (1) the review of grazing permits/leases, in particular to determine if modification is necessary prior to renewal, and (2) the processing of grazing permits/leases in PHMAs. In setting workload priorities, precedence will be given to existing permits/leases in these areas not meeting land health standards, with focus on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows. The BLM may use other criteria for prioritization to respond to urgent natural resource concerns (e.g., fire) and legal obligations.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 3: The NEPA analysis for renewals and modifications of livestock grazing permits/leases that include lands within SFA and PHMAs will include specific management thresholds based on GRSG Habitat Objectives Table (Table 2-2), Land Health Standards (43 CFR, Part 4180.2) and ecological site potential, and one or more defined responses that will allow the authorizing officer to make adjustments to livestock grazing that have already been subjected to NEPA analysis.	MD LG 3: The NEPA analysis for renewals and modifications of livestock grazing permits/leases that include lands within PHMAs will include specific management thresholds based on GRSG Habitat Objectives Table (Table 2-2), Land Health Standards (43 CFR, Part 4180.2) and ecological site potential, and one or more defined responses that will allow the authorizing officer to make adjustments to livestock grazing that have already been subjected to NEPA analysis.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD LG 4: Complete land health assessments in PHMAs and GHMAs to identify whether or not GRSG habitat objectives (Table 2-2) are being met. The priority order for completing land health assessments in GRSG habitat is: • Allotments containing SFA that have never been evaluated; • Allotments containing SFA that have not been re-evaluated in 10 or more years; • Allotments containing PHMAs that have never been evaluated; • Allotments containing PHMAs that have not been re-evaluated in 10 or more years; • Allotments containing GHMAs that have never been evaluated; • Allotments containing GHMAs that have not been re-evaluated in 10 or more years.	MD LG 4: Complete land health assessments in PHMAs and GHMAs to identify whether or not GRSG habitat objectives (Table 2-2) are being met. The priority order for completing land health assessments in GRSG habitat is: • Allotments containing PHMAs that have never been evaluated; • Allotments containing PHMAs that have not been re-evaluated in 10 or more years; • Allotments containing GHMAs that have never been evaluated; • Allotments containing GHMAs that have not been re-evaluated in 10 or more years.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD LG 5: If results from a land health assessment indicate that GRSG habitat objectives (Table 2-2) are not met in SFA, PHMAs, or GHMAs and grazing is a causal factor, and until appropriate modifications (MD LG 1) are incorporated through the permit renewal process, implement management strategies that may include, but are not limited to, the following: • Provide periods of rest or deferment during critical growth periods of key vegetation species • Limit grazing duration and intensity to allow plant growth sufficient to meet GRSG habitat objectives (Table 2-2) • Employ herd management techniques to minimize impacts of livestock on breeding, nesting, and brood-rearing habitat during the breeding season (March 1 to June 30; Lek—March 1 to May 15, and Nesting—April 1 to June 30) • Consider any temporary projects that can mitigate livestock impacts (e.g., temporary fencing or temporary water hauling locations; • Work with permittees to avoid concentrated turn-out locations for livestock within 4 miles of active and pending leks from March 1 to June 30 • Avoid domestic sheep use and bedding areas and herder camps within 2 miles of active and pending leks from March 1 to June 30 • Utilizing land features and roads on maps provided to the permittee to help delineate livestock use avoidance areas • Considering no grazing from May 15 – Sept. 15 in riparian areas and wet meadows. • Removing livestock within 3-7 days for the remainder of the grazing year once the allowable use levels are reached (BLM 1996,	MD LG 5: If results from a land health assessment indicate that GRSG habitat objectives (Table 2-2) are not met in PHMAs or GHMAs and grazing is a causal factor, and until appropriate modifications (MD LG 1) are incorporated through the permit renewal process, then, consistent with applicable law and regulations, implement management strategies that may include, but are not limited to, the following: • Provide periods of rest or deferment during critical growth periods of key vegetation species • Limit grazing duration and intensity to allow plant growth sufficient to meet GRSG habitat objectives (Table 2-2) • Employ herd management techniques to minimize impacts of livestock on breeding, nesting, and brood-rearing habitat during the breeding season (March 1 to June 30; Lek—March 1 to May 15, and Nesting—April 1 to June 30) • Consider any temporary projects that can mitigate livestock impacts (e.g., temporary fencing or temporary water hauling locations; • Work with permittees to avoid concentrated turn-out locations for livestock within 4 miles of active and pending leks from March 1 to June 30 • Avoid domestic sheep use and bedding areas and herder camps within 2 miles of active and pending leks from March 1 to June 30 • Utilizing land features and roads on maps provided to the permittee to help delineate livestock use avoidance areas • Considering no grazing from May 15 – Sept. 15 in riparian areas and wet meadows. • Removing livestock within 3-7 days for the remainder of the grazing year once the allowable use levels are reached (BLM 1996,	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

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Burton et. al 2011, Cagney et. al, 2010, Connelly et. al 2000, France et. al 2008, Hagen et. al 2007, Holechek 1988, Platts 1990, and Tanaka et. al 2014): ▪ In riparian areas and wet meadows the allowable percent utilization is 35% woody species, and a minimum stubble height of 4-6 inches (10-15 cm) for herbaceous riparian vegetation based on site. ▪ In mountain big sage habitat, the allowable percent utilization is 40 % herbaceous key species and/or 35 % shrub key species. ▪ In Wyoming Basin big sage habitat, the allowable percent utilization is 35% herbaceous key species and/or 35 % shrub key species. ▪ In black sage habitat, the allowable percent utilization is 35% herbaceous key species and/or 35 % shrub key species.	Burton et. al 2011, Cagney et. al, 2010, Connelly et. al 2000, France et. al 2008, Hagen et. al 2007, Holechek 1988, Platts 1990, and Tanaka et. al 2014): ▪ In riparian areas and wet meadows, the allowable percent utilization is 35% woody species, and a minimum stubble height of 4-6 inches (10-15 cm) for herbaceous riparian vegetation based on site. ▪ In mountain big sage habitat, the allowable percent utilization is 40 % herbaceous key species and/or 35 % shrub key species. ▪ In Wyoming Basin big sage habitat, the allowable percent utilization is 35% herbaceous key species and/or 35 % shrub key species. ▪ In black sage habitat, the allowable percent utilization is 35% herbaceous key species and/or 35 % shrub key species. To the extent that the implementation of these strategies would be in conflict with the terms and conditions of any applicable livestock grazing permit or lease, then the BLM would complete a new decision-making process before implementing the strategies.	(See above.)
MD LG 6: Appropriate allowable utilization levels will be defined through the grazing permit renewal process. At least one alternative in the NEPA process will consider the utilization levels identified in MD LG 5.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD LG 7: In pastures where post livestock removal use monitoring results in utilization levels that exceed allowable use levels and livestock are identified as a causal factor, reduce animal unit months (AUMs) grazed the following year accordingly. AUMs cannot be applied to another pasture that is already being used by livestock or is being purposefully rested.	MD LG 7: In pastures where post livestock removal use monitoring results in utilization levels that exceed allowable use levels and livestock are identified as a causal factor, reduce animal unit months (AUMs) grazed the following year in accordance with 43 CFR 4160.1 and IM 2018-023. AUMs cannot be applied to another pasture that is already being used by livestock or is being purposefully rested.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 8: Within PHMAs and GHMAs, incorporate terms and conditions into grazing permits to meet GRSG habitat objectives (Table 2-2), specific terms and conditions will be based on rangeland health assessments (and subsequent monitoring data).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD LG 9: When a transfer application is received for preference on an allotment within GRSG habitat: • Transfer of Preference: A transfer of preference will be approved unless the applicant does not meet qualifications (43 CFR, Part 4110.1 and 4110.2). A transfer will be approved to an unqualified applicant if 4110.2-3(e) applies. • Issuing the permit: In accordance with Section 402(c)(2) of FLPMA, a new permit will be issued to the new preference holder with the same terms and conditions as the terminated permit unless: ▪ A NEPA analysis of alternative terms and conditions has been completed. If changes in terms and conditions are needed to meet sage-grouse habitat needs or otherwise make progress toward meeting land health standards, issue a decision offering a permit with the new terms and conditions • If a new permit is issued as required by Section 402(c)(2) of FLPMA, then determine priority for completing land health evaluations, habitat assessments and NEPA analysis as described in MD LG 1.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 10: In any allotment where land health standards were not met and livestock grazing was found to be a significant causal factor, compliance monitoring will be conducted annually until GRSG habitat objectives (Table 2-2) are met. If compliance monitoring finds that the implemented management strategies identified in MD LG 5 are not achieving the desired results, a change in action will be required.	MD LG 10: In any allotment where land health standards were not met and livestock grazing was found to be a significant causal factor, compliance monitoring will be conducted annually until GRSG habitat objectives (Table 2-2) are met or making progress towards meeting habitat objectives. If compliance monitoring finds that the implemented management strategies identified in MD LG 5 are not achieving the desired results, a change in action will be required in compliance with CFR 43 CFR 4160.1 and IM 2018-023.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD LG 11: Allotments within SFA, followed by those within PHMAs, and focusing on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows, will be prioritized for field checks to help ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the grazing permits. Field checks could include monitoring for actual use, utilization, and use supervision.	MD LG 11: Allotments within PHMAs, focusing on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows, will be prioritized for field checks to help ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the grazing permits. Field checks could include monitoring for actual use, utilization, and use supervision.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 12: Grazing management strategies for riparian areas and wet meadows will, at a minimum, maintain or achieve proper functioning condition (PFC) and promote GRSG brood-rearing habitat objectives (Table 2-2) within PHMAs and GHMAs.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 13: For range improvement projects, review Objective SSS 4 and apply MDs SSS 1 through SSS 4 when reviewing and analyzing projects and activities proposed in GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 14: Build or modify livestock exclosures so that they are large enough to provide hiding cover to GRSG and other wildlife and to reduce the possibility of wildlife collisions with fences (Christiansen 2009; Stevens 2011; NRCS 2012).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 15: In accordance with state water law and subject to valid existing rights, remove or modify water developments that are negatively impacting GRSG habitats.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 16: Authorize new water developments for diversion from spring or seep source, in accordance with state water law and subject to valid existing rights when PHMAs and GHMAs will benefit from or not be negatively impacted by the new development. This includes developing new water sources for livestock as part of a grazing management plan to improve GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD LG 17: Modify water development projects to ensure riparian habitats in PHMAs and GHMAs are being maintained or improved in compliance with valid existing rights and in accordance with state water law.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 18: Locate salting and supplemental feeding locations, temporary or mobile watering, and new handling facilities (e.g., corrals and chutes) at least 1 mile from riparian areas, springs, and meadows. The distance can be greater based on site-specific conditions.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 19: In PHMAs and GHMAs, remove livestock ponds built in perennial channels that are negatively impacting riparian habitats, either directly or indirectly, unless riparian access is able to be controlled and negative impacts effectively mitigated (e.g.; water gap fence to pond), and do not permit new ones to be built in these areas subject to valid existing rights. Prior to pond removal, offsite watering options will be examined and considered.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 20: In PHMA and GHMA, rest areas that have received vegetative treatments from livestock grazing until resource monitoring data verifies the treatment objectives are being met and an appropriate grazing regime has been developed. Any livestock grazing temporary suspended use or other management changes per 43 CFR, Part 41.10.3-2a for the purpose of a vegetation treatment will be done through the grazing decision, prior to treatment.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD LG 21: At the time a permittee or lessee voluntarily relinquishes a permit or lease, the BLM will consider whether the public lands where that permitted use was authorized shall remain available for livestock grazing or be used for other resource management objectives, such as reserve common allotments and fire breaks. This does not apply to or impact grazing preference transfers, which are addressed in 43 CFR, Part 4110.2-3.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 22: After grazing rest associated with vegetation treatments in PHMAs and GHMAs, monitor annually for a minimum of 5 years to ensure project objectives are being maintained.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 23: Fences shall not be constructed or reconstructed within 1.2 miles from the perimeter of occupied leks, unless the collision risk can be mitigated through design features or markings (e.g., mark, laydown fences, and design).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
WILD HORSES AND BURROS (WHB)	WILD HORSES AND BURROS (WHB)	—
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
MD WHB 1: For WHB management activities (e.g., gathers), review Objective SSS 4 and apply MDs SSS 1 through SSS 4 when reviewing and analyzing projects and activities proposed in GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD WHB 2: Manage herd management areas (HMAs) in GRSG habitat within established AML ranges to achieve and maintain GRSG habitat objectives (Table 2-2).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD WHB 3: Complete rangeland health assessments for HMAs containing GRSG habitat using an interdisciplinary team of specialists (e.g., range, wildlife, and riparian). The priorities for conducting assessments are: 1. HMAs containing SFA; 2. HMAs containing PHMAs, which include riparian areas; 3. HMAs containing only GHMAs; 4. HMAs containing sagebrush habitat outside of PHMAs and GHMAs mapped habitat; 5. HMAs without GRSG habitat.	MD WHB 3: Complete rangeland health assessments for HMAs containing GRSG habitat using an interdisciplinary team of specialists (e.g., range, wildlife, and riparian). The priorities for conducting assessments are: 1. HMAs containing PHMAs, which include riparian areas; 2. HMAs containing only GHMAs; 3. HMAs containing sagebrush habitat outside of PHMAs and GHMAs mapped habitat; 4. HMAs without GRSG habitat.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD WHB 4: Prioritize gathers and population growth suppression techniques in HMAs in GRSG habitat, unless removals are necessary in other areas to address higher priority environmental issues, including herd health impacts. Place higher priority on herd areas not allocated as HMAs and occupied by wild horses and burros in SFA, followed by PHMAs.	MD WHB 4: Prioritize gathers and population growth suppression techniques in HMAs in GRSG habitat, unless removals are necessary in other areas to address higher priority environmental issues, including herd health impacts. Place higher priority on herd areas not allocated as HMAs and occupied by wild horses and burros in PHMAs.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD WHB 5: In SFA and PHMAs outside SFA, assess and adjust AMLs through the NEPA process within HMAs when wild horses or burros are identified as a significant causal factor in not meeting rangeland health standards, even if current AML is not being exceeded.	MD WHB 5: In PHMAs, assess and adjust AMLs through the NEPA process within HMAs when wild horses or burros are identified as a significant causal factor in not meeting rangeland health standards, even if current AML is not being exceeded.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD WHB 6: In SFA and PHMAs outside of SFA, monitor the effects of WHB use in relation to GRSG habitat objectives (Table 2-2) on an annual basis to help determine future management actions.	MD WHB 6: In PHMAs, monitor the effects of WHB use in relation to GRSG habitat objectives (Table 2-2) on an annual basis to help determine future management actions.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD WHB 7: Develop or amend herd management area plans (HMAPs) to incorporate GRSG habitat objectives (Table 2-2) and management considerations for all HMAs within GRSG habitat, with emphasis placed on SFA and PHMAs outside of SFA.	MD WHB 7: Develop or amend herd management area plans (HMAPs) to incorporate GRSG habitat objectives (Table 2-2) and management considerations for all HMAs within GRSG habitat, with emphasis placed on PHMAs.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD WHB 8: Consider removals or exclusion of WHB during or immediately following emergency situations (such as fire, floods, and drought) to facilitate meeting GRSG habitat objectives (Table 2-2) where HMAs overlap with GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD WHB 9: When conducting NEPA analysis for wild horse/burro management activities, water developments, or other rangeland improvements for wild horses, address the direct and indirect effects to GRSG populations and habitat. Implement any water developments or rangeland improvements using the criteria identified for domestic livestock.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD WHB 10: Coordinate with professionals from other federal and state agencies, researchers at universities, and others to utilize and evaluate new management tools (e.g., population growth suppression, inventory techniques, and telemetry) for implementing the WHB program.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
<u>MINERALS RESOURCES (MR)</u>	<u>MINERALS RESOURCES (MR)</u>	—
<u>Leasable Minerals</u>	<u>Leasable Minerals</u>	—
<u>Objectives</u>	<u>Objectives</u>	—
Objective MR I: Priority will be given to leasing and development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, outside of PHMAs and GHMAs. When analyzing leasing and authorizing development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, in PHMAs and GHMAs, that are subject to applicable stipulations for the conservation of GRSG, priority will be given to development in non-habitat areas first and then in the least suitable habitat for GRSG. The implementation of these priorities will be subject to valid existing rights and any applicable law or regulation, including, but not limited to, 30 U.S.C. 226(p) and 43 C.F.R. 3162.3-1(h).	Objective MR I Removed	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Objective MR 2: Where a proposed fluid mineral development project on an existing lease could adversely affect GRSG populations or habitat, the BLM will work with the lessees, operators, or other project proponents to avoid, reduce and mitigate adverse impacts to the extent compatible with lessees' rights to drill and produce fluid mineral resources. The BLM will work with the lessee, operator, or project proponent in developing an application for permit to drill (APD) for the lease to avoid and minimize impacts on GRSG or its habitat and will ensure that the best information about GRSG and its habitat informs and helps to guide development of such federal leases.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
<u>Management Decisions (MD): Unleased Fluid Minerals</u>	<u>Management Decisions (MD): Unleased Fluid Minerals</u>	—
MD MR 1: Review Objective SSS 4 and apply MDs SSS 1 through SSS 4 when reviewing and analyzing projects and activities proposed in GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD MR 2: Manage SFA as NSO without waivers, exceptions, or modifications (see Appendix A; Figure 2-4).	MD MR 2 Removed	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD MR 3: In PHMAs outside of SFA, no waivers or modifications to an oil and gas lease no-surface-occupancy stipulation will be granted. In PHMAs, the Authorized Officer may grant an exception to an oil and gas lease no-surface-occupancy stipulation only where the proposed action: MD MR 1: Review Objective SSS 4 and apply MDs SSS 1 through SSS 4 when reviewing and analyzing projects and activities proposed in GRSG habitat. i. Will not have direct, indirect, or cumulative effects on GRSG or its habitat; or, ii. Is proposed to be undertaken as an alternative to a similar action occurring on a nearby parcel, and	MD MR 3: In PHMAs, manage oil and gas with major constraints (no-surface occupancy) and timing limitations. See MD SSS 5 (Allocation Exceptions) and Appendix E regarding waivers, exceptions, and modifications for oil and gas lease stipulations.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 66.

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will provide a clear conservation gain to GRSG. Exceptions based on conservation gain (ii) may only be considered in (a) PHMAs of mixed ownership where federal minerals underlie less than fifty percent of the total surface, or (b) Areas of the public lands where the proposed exception is an alternative to an action occurring on a nearby parcel subject to a valid federal oil and gas lease existing as of the date of this RMP amendment. Exceptions based on conservation gain must also include measures, such as enforceable institutional controls and buffers, sufficient to allow the BLM to conclude that such benefits will endure for the duration of the proposed action's impacts (see Appendix G). Any exceptions to this lease stipulation may be approved by the Authorized Officer only with the concurrence of the State Director. The Authorized Officer may not grant an exception unless the applicable state wildlife agency, the USFWS, and the BLM unanimously find that the proposed action satisfies (i) or (ii). Such finding shall initially be made by a team of one field biologist or other GRSG expert from each respective agency. In the event the initial finding is not unanimous, the finding may be elevated to the appropriate BLM State Director, USFWS State Ecological Services Director, and state wildlife agency head for final resolution. In the event their finding is not unanimous, the exception will not be granted. Approved exceptions will be made publicly available at least quarterly.	(See above.)	(See above.)

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD MR 4a: For BLM land in the state of Nevada only, in the portions of the PHMAs outside of SFA, geothermal projects may be considered for authorization if all of the following conditions are met: • A team comprised of BLM, FWS, and NDOW specialists advises the BLM State Director on appropriate mitigation measures for the project and its ancillary facilities, including lek buffer distances using the best available science; • Mitigation actions are consistent with this Plan's mitigation strategy such as the Nevada Conservation Credit System, and; • The footprint of the project is consistent with the disturbance management protocols identified in this plan (see MD SSS 2 and Appendix E)	MD MR 4a: In PHMAs, manage geothermal fluid minerals with major constraints (no-surface occupancy) and timing limitations. See MD SSS 5 (Allocation Exceptions) and Appendix E regarding waivers, exceptions, and modifications for oil and gas lease stipulations.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD MR 4b: For BLM lands in California only, manage geothermal leasing in PHMAs in accordance with MD MR 3 (see Appendix G).	MD MR 4b Removed	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 66.
MD MR 5: In GHMAs, manage oil and gas and geothermal fluid minerals with moderate constraints, timing limitations, and controlled surface use stipulations (see Appendix A; Figure 2-4).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD MR 6: In PHMAs and GHMAs, allow only geophysical exploration that does not crush sagebrush or create new or additional surface disturbance. Examples of technologies that may meet this requirement are drilling methods using helicopters, articulated rubber-tired vehicles that leave no trace, and vibroseis geophysical operations on roads and bladed shoulders.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD MR 7: Prohibit surface shot methods in PHMAs.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Leased Federal Fluid Mineral Estate Actions	Leased Federal Fluid Mineral Estate Actions	—
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
MD MR 8: Review Objective SSS 4, and to the extent allowed by law, apply MDs SSS 1 through SSS 4 when reviewing and analyzing projects and activities proposed in GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD MR 9: Use directional and horizontal drilling to reduce surface disturbance.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD MR 10: On leased federal fluid mineral estate, where no APD or geothermal drilling permit (GDP) has been issued, apply RDFs consistent with applicable law and other conditions of approval (COAs) that conserve GRSG. Manage existing fluid mineral leases through COAs applied at the time APD or GDP is approved.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD MR 11: On leased federal fluid mineral estate in PHMAs, complete master development plans for oil and gas in lieu of APD-by-APD, or operations/utilization plans for geothermal processing for all but exploration wells.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD MR 12: On leased, federal, fluid mineral estate in PHMAs, require a full reclamation bond specific to the site. Ensure bonds are sufficient for reclamation costs for full restoration. Base the reclamation costs on the assumption that BLM contractors will perform the work.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD MR 13: In PHMAs and GHMAs, place infrastructure in already disturbed locations to the extent feasible.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD MR 14: Locate new compressor stations outside PHMAs and GHMAs and design them to reduce noise that may be directed toward PHMAs and GHMAs (see MDs SSS 2 and SSS 3 and Appendix M).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Locatable Minerals	Locatable Minerals	—
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
MD MR 15: Review Objective SSS 4, and to the extent allowed by law, apply MDs SSS 1 through SSS 4 when reviewing and analyzing projects and activities proposed in GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD MR 16: Recommend for withdrawal SFA under the General Mining Act of 1872, as amended, subject to valid existing rights (see Appendix A; Figures 2-1 and 2-4).	MD MR 16 Removed	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD MR 17: On public lands, manage disturbances associated with notice-level activity in GRSG habitat on a landscape basis to avoid segmenting a project. Do this by encouraging operators and claimants to consolidate exploration into a plan of operations to reduce the proliferation of mining notices, in accordance with 43 CFR, Part 3809.21(b).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD MR 18: Subject to valid existing rights and applicable law, authorize locatable mineral development activity, by approving plans of operation and apply mitigation and best management practices that minimize the loss of PHMAs and GHMAs or that enhance GRSG habitat by applying the “avoid, minimize and compensatory mitigation” process through an applicable mitigation system, such as the Nevada Conservation Credit System and exemplified in the Barrick Nevada Sage-Grouse Bank Enabling Agreement (March 2015).	MD MR 18: Subject to valid existing rights and applicable law, authorize locatable mineral development activity, by approving plans of operation and apply mitigation and best management practices that minimize the loss of PHMAs and GHMAs or that enhance GRSG habitat by applying the mitigation strategy outlined in MD MIT 1 and exemplified in the Barrick Nevada Sage-Grouse Bank Enabling Agreement (March 2015).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD MR 19: Close or mitigate abandoned mine sites in PHMAs and GHMAs to reduce GRSG predation by eliminating physical structures that could provide nesting opportunities and perching sites for predators.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Saleable Materials	Saleable Materials	—
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
MD MR 20: Review Objective SSS 4 and apply MDs SSS 1 through SSS 4 when reviewing and analyzing projects and activities proposed in GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 66.
MD MR 21: PHMAs are closed to new mineral material sales (see Appendix A; Figure 2-6). However, these areas remain open to free use permits and the expansion of existing active pits, if requirements in MD MR 20 can be met.	MD MR 21: PHMAs are closed to new mineral material sales (see Appendix A; Figure 2-6). However, these areas remain open to free use permits and the expansion of existing active pits, if requirements in MD MR 20 are met and/or if the new mineral material sale meets one of the allocation exception criteria outlined in MD SSS 5 .	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 66.
MD MR 22: Manage GHMAs as open to existing and new mineral materials disposal sites (see Appendix A; Figure 2-6).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 66.
MD MR 23: Provide reasonable access and development opportunity to Federal Highway Administration, Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), counties, tribes and the public for existing mineral material pits in PHMAs and GHMAs.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
Non-Energy Leasable Minerals	Non-Energy Leasable Minerals	—
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
MD MR 24: Review Objective SSS 4 and apply MDs SSS 1 through SSS 4 when reviewing and analyzing projects and activities proposed in GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 66.
MD MR 25: Manage PHMAs as closed to new non-energy leasable mineral leasing (see Appendix A; Figure 2-7).	MD MR 25: Manage PHMAs as closed to new non-energy leasable mineral leasing, unless the new non-energy leasable mineral lease meets one of the allocation exception criteria outlined in MD SSS 5 (see Appendix A; Figure 2-7).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD MR 26: Expansion of existing leases will be considered in PHMA for development.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 66.
MD MR 27: Manage GHMAs as open to new non-energy leasable mineral leasing (see Appendix A; Figure 2-7).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 66.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Mineral Split-Estate	Mineral Split-Estate	—
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
MD MR 28: Review Objective SSS 4, and to the extent allowed by law, apply MDs SSS 1 through SSS 4 when reviewing and analyzing projects and activities proposed in GRSG habitat in split estate situations.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD MR 29: Where the federal government owns the mineral estate in PHMAs and GHMAs, and the surface is in non-federal ownership, apply the same stipulations, conditions of approval (COAs), and/or conservation measures and RDFs applied (consistent with applicable law) if the mineral estate is developed on BLM-administered lands in that management area, to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities, and in coordination with the landowner.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
RENEWABLE ENERGY (WIND AND SOLAR) (RE)	RENEWABLE ENERGY (WIND AND SOLAR) (RE)	—
Management Decisions (MD): Industrial Solar	Management Decisions (MD): Industrial Solar	—
MD RE 1: Designate PHMAs and GHMAs as ROW exclusion for utility-scale solar energy facilities (those that generate 20 megawatts or more) (see Appendix A; Figure 2-9).	MD RE 1: Manage PHMAs and GHMAs as ROW exclusion for utility-scale solar energy facilities (those that generate 20 megawatts or more), unless the utility-scale solar energy facility meets one of the allocation exception criteria outlined in MD SSS 5 , (see Appendix A; Figure 2-9) and in accordance with the Final Solar Energy Development Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (BLM 2012).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD RE 2: In PHMAs and GHMAs, consider approving solar facilities on existing industrial infrastructure (e.g., a mine site) to generate power on-site. Review Objective SSS 4 and apply MDs SSS 1 through SSS 3 when reviewing and analyzing projects and activities proposed in GRSG habitat. In OHMAs, apply Action SSS 4.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions (MD): Wind Energy Development	Management Decisions (MD): Wind Energy Development	—
MD RE 3: Designate PHMAs as ROW exclusion for utility-scale commercial wind energy facilities (those that generate 20 megawatts or more) (see Appendix A; Figure 2-8).	MD RE 3: Manage PHMAs as ROW exclusion for utility-scale commercial wind energy facilities (those that generate 20 megawatts or more), unless the commercial wind energy facility meets one of the allocation exception criteria outlined in MD SSS 5 (see Appendix A; Figure 2-8).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD RE 4: Within PHMAs, wind facilities associated with existing industrial infrastructure (e.g., a mine site) to provide on-site power generation could be considered for approval, subject to a net conservation gain. Apply MDs SSS 1 through SSS 2 when reviewing and analyzing projects/activities proposed within GRSG habitat.	MD RE 4: Within PHMAs, wind facilities associated with existing industrial infrastructure (e.g., a mine site) to provide on-site power generation could be considered for approval, subject to meeting one of the allocation exception criteria outlined in MD SSS 5 (see Appendix A; Figure 2-8). Apply MDs SSS 1 through SSS 2 when reviewing and analyzing projects/activities proposed within GRSG habitat.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD RE 5: Designate GHMAs as ROW avoidance for utility-scale commercial wind energy facilities (i.e., facilities that generate 20 megawatts or more) (see Appendix A; Figure 2-8). Review Objective SSS 4 and apply Actions SSS 1 through SSS 3 when reviewing and analyzing projects/activities proposed within GRSG habitat. In OHMAs apply Action SSS 4.	MD RE 5: Manage GHMAs as ROW avoidance for utility-scale commercial wind energy facilities (i.e., facilities that generate 20 megawatts or more), unless the commercial wind energy facility meets one of the allocation exception criteria outlined in MD SSS 5 (see Appendix A; Figure 2-8). Review Objective SSS 4 and apply Actions SSS 1 through SSS 3 when reviewing and analyzing projects/activities proposed within GRSG habitat. In OHMAs apply Action SSS 4.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
LANDS AND REALTY (LR)	LANDS AND REALTY (LR)	LANDS AND REALTY (LR)
Objectives:	Objectives:	Objectives:
Objective LR 1: Manage land use authorizations, including ROWs, leases, permits, and tenure adjustments, to maintain or enhance PHMAs and GHMAs and connectivity.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Objective LR 2: Effects of infrastructure projects, including siting, will be minimized using the best available science, and updated as monitoring information on current infrastructure projects becomes available.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
<u>Management Decisions (MD):</u> <u>Utility Corridors and</u> <u>Communication Sites</u>	<u>Management Decisions (MD):</u> <u>Utility Corridors and</u> <u>Communication Sites</u>	—
MD LR 1: Review Objective SSS 4 and apply MDs SSS 1 through SSS 4 when reviewing and analyzing projects and activities proposed in GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD LR 2: Only utility corridors identified in Appendix A, Figure 2-10 remain as designated corridors in PHMAs and GHMAs. All previously designated corridors in PHMAs and GHMAs not shown on the map that were designated through past land use planning efforts have been evaluated and undesignated.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD LR 3: On public lands, keep the designated corridors identified in Appendix A, Figure 2-10 in PHMAs and GHMAs available to new uses, subject to a maximum corridor width of 3,500 feet, unless a narrower width is specified in an existing plan, or a different width is specified for congressionally designated corridors.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD LR 4: When issuing new communication site management plans or amending existing plans, include GRSG habitat objectives (Table 2-2). Current authorizations will then be amended to reflect the updated communication site management plans.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
<u>Management Decisions (MD):</u> <u>Land Use Authorizations</u>	<u>Management Decisions (MD):</u> <u>Land Use Authorizations</u>	—
MD LR 5: PHMAs and GHMAs are designated as avoidance areas for high voltage transmission line ROWs (>100 kV) (see Appendix A; Figure 2-1 Ia), except for the transmission projects specifically identified below. All authorizations in these areas, other than the identified projects, must comply with the conservation measures outlined in this proposed plan amendment, including all of the requirements presented in MDs SSS 1 – SSS 4. The BLM is currently processing an application for the TransWest Express transmission line and the NEPA review for this project is well underway. Conservation measures for GRSG are being analyzed through the project's NEPA review process, which should achieve a net conservation benefit for the GRSG.	MD LR 5: PHMAs and GHMAs are designated as avoidance areas for high voltage transmission line ROWs (>100 kV) (see Appendix A; Figure 2-1 I), unless the high voltage transmission line meets one of the allocation exception criteria outlined in MD SSS 5 . Review Objective SSS 4 and apply MDs SSS 1 through SSS 4 when reviewing and analyzing projects and activities proposed in GRSG habitat. In OHMAs, apply MD SSS 4.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LR 6: PHMAs and GHMAs are designated as major pipeline (≥24-inch diameter) ROW avoidance areas (see Appendix A; Figure 2-1 Ia). Review Objective SSS 4 and apply MDs SSS 1 through SSS 4 when reviewing and analyzing projects and activities proposed in GRSG habitat. In OHMAs, apply MD SSS 4.	MD LR 6: PHMAs and GHMAs are designated as major pipeline (≥24-inch diameter) ROW avoidance areas (see Appendix A; Figure 2-1 I), unless the major pipeline line meets one of the allocation exception criteria outlined in MD SSS 5 . Review Objective SSS 4 and apply MDs SSS 1 through SSS 4 when reviewing and analyzing projects and activities proposed in GRSG habitat. In OHMAs, apply MD SSS 4.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LR 7: Issue ROWs only after documenting that they will not adversely affect or disrupt GRSG habitat (independent of disturbance cap), except where such limitation will make accessing valid existing rights impracticable in PHMAs and GHMAs.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD LR 8: Manage PHMAs as avoidance areas for ROWs (including permits and leases) (see Appendix A; Figure 2-11b). These do not include the wind, solar, or high-voltage transmission line and major pipeline ROW actions, above.	MD LR 8: Manage PHMAs as avoidance areas for ROWs (including permits and leases) (see Appendix A; Figure 2-11), unless the ROW meets one of the allocation exception criteria outlined in MD SSS 5 . These ROWs do not include the wind, solar, or high-voltage transmission line and major pipeline ROW actions, above.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LR 9: Manage GHMAs as open to ROWs (including for permits and leases) (see Appendix A; Figure 2-11b). These do not include the wind, solar, or high-voltage transmission line and major pipeline ROW actions, above.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LR 10: In PHMAs, bury new distribution power and communication lines in existing disturbed areas, unless it would not be technically feasible, or the cost would prohibit the proponent from providing the service. Where burying transmission lines is not feasible, locate new transmission lines next to existing linear disturbances, when possible; additional mitigation will be required.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LR 11: When renewing or amending ROWs (including permits and leases), assess the impacts of ongoing use of the ROW on GRSGs and their habitat and minimize such impacts to the extent allowed by law.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD LR 12: When renewing or amending ROWs that are undeveloped, work with ROW holders to bury or relocate authorized but undeveloped lines to minimize impacts on PHMAs, unless this would not be technically feasible or would be contrary to policy. Where burying transmission lines is not feasible, locate new transmission lines next to existing linear disturbances, when possible.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD LR 13: In PHMAs and GHMAs where existing ROWs, permits, or leases are no longer in use, coordinate with the authorized holder to relinquish the authorization and reclaim the site by removing the infrastructure.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD LR 14: Stipulate site relinquishment and reclamation in all new, amended or renewed ROWs, permits, and leases.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
MD LR 15: In PHMAs and GHMAs, site new linear features in designated corridors, as identified in Appendix A, Figure 2-10, or at a minimum, collocate with existing linear features. Construct new ROWs in designated corridors as close as technically feasible to existing linear ROW infrastructure to limit disturbance to the smallest footprint.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
MD LR 16: Manage landfills and transfer stations on public lands to eliminate opportunities to attract and provide nesting, cover, or perches for predators.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LR 17: Within 4 miles of active and pending leks in GRSG habitat, require ROW, permit, and lease holders to retrofit those portions of power lines and other utility structures with nesting and perch-detering devices. Do this during the renewal and amendment process if adverse effects, such as increased nest predation, on GRSG populations have been documented. This requirement shall be predicated on research and monitoring studies specific to power lines or other utility structures.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6a.
MD LR 18: In PHMAs and subject to valid existing rights, authorize new road ROWs only when necessary for public safety or administrative access, or if it will create no new surface disturbance.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD LR 19: In PHMAs and GHMAs, address access to valid existing rights to provide the minimum access necessary to exercise the right and maintain or enhance PHMAs and GHMAs.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD LR 20: Consider the likelihood of development of not-yet-constructed surface-disturbing activities – as defined in Table 2 of the Monitoring Framework (Appendix D)–under valid existing rights prior to authorizing new projects in PHMA.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
<u>Management Decisions (MD):</u> <u>Land Tenure</u>	<u>Management Decisions (MD):</u> <u>Land Tenure</u>	—
MD LR 21: Lands classified as PHMAs and GHMAs for GRSG will be retained in federal management, unless: (1) the agency can demonstrate that disposal of the lands, including land exchanges, will provide a net conservation gain to GRSG or (2) the agency can demonstrate that the disposal, including land exchanges, of the lands will have no direct or indirect adverse impact on conservation of the GRSG (see Appendix A; Figure 2-12).	MD LR 21: Exceptions to non-disposal or exchange of lands that are identified for retention in Appendix A, Figure 2-12 could be considered if (a) they are identified for disposal through previous planning efforts or address a Congressional Act (e.g., the respective Lincoln and White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Acts), (b) the agency can demonstrate that the disposal, including land exchanges, will have no adverse direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on GRSG and its habitat, or (c) adverse impacts on GRSG or its habitat will be offset, through use of voluntary compensatory mitigation, consistent with the States' mitigation policies and programs, such as the State of Nevada's Executive Order 2018-32 (and any future regulations adopted by the State of Nevada regarding compensatory mitigation, consistent with federal law). Also see allocation exception criteria in MD SSS 5.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD LR 22: Where significant conservation actions can be achieved in PHMAs and GHMAs, seek to acquire lands with intact subsurface mineral estate by donation, purchase, or exchange in order to best conserve, enhance, or restore GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD LR 23: Manage lands acquired by exchange, purchase or easement as either PHMAs or GHMAs, in consideration of surrounding habitat.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
<u>Management Decisions (MD):</u> <u>Withdrawals</u>	<u>Management Decisions (MD):</u> <u>Withdrawals</u>	—
MD LR 24: Recommend SFA for withdrawal from the General Mining Act of 1872, as amended; subject to valid existing rights (see Appendix A; Figure 2-5).	MD LR 24 Removed	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
<u>RECREATION AND VISITOR SERVICES (REC)</u>	<u>RECREATION AND VISITOR SERVICES (REC)</u>	—
<u>Management Decisions (MD):</u>	<u>Management Decisions (MD):</u>	—
MD REC 1: Review Objective SSS 4 and apply MDs SSS 1 through SSS 4 when analyzing projects and activities proposed in GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD REC 2: Allow special recreation permits in PHMAs and GHMAs only if their effects on GRSG and its habitat are neutral or result in a net conservation gain.	MD REC 2: Allow special recreation permits in PHMAs and GHMAs only if their effects on GRSG and its habitat are neutral or beneficial.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD REC 3: In PHMA, do not construct new recreation facilities (e.g., campgrounds, trails, trailheads, staging areas) unless the development will have a net conservation gain to GRSG and its habitat (such as concentrating recreation, diverting use away from critical areas, etc.), or unless the development is required for visitor health and safety or resource protection.	MD REC 3: In PHMA, do not construct new recreation facilities (e.g., campgrounds, trails, trailheads, staging areas) unless the facility meets one of the criteria outlined in MD SSS 5 .	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD REC 4: Develop trail mapping and educational campaigns in PHMAs and GHMAs to reduce recreational impacts on GRSG and their habitat, including the effects of cross-country travel.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
<u>TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT (TTM)</u>	<u>TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT (TTM)</u>	—
<u>OBJECTIVE</u>	<u>OBJECTIVE</u>	—
Objective TTM 1: Prioritize and complete transportation planning in PHMAs and GHMAs that provides for reasonable access to public lands for administration and recreation and that minimizes proliferation of user-created routes (e.g., roads, primitive roads, and trails).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
MD TTM 1: Review Objective SSS 4 and apply MDs SSS 1 through SSS 4 when reviewing and analyzing projects and activities proposed in GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD TTM 2: In areas where travel planning has not been completed, limit off-highway vehicle (OHV) travel to existing routes in PHMAs and GHMAs (subject to valid existing rights, such as for a mine under a plan of operations) until subsequent implementation-level travel planning is completed and a designated route system is established. In travel management plans that have been completed and are being implemented (e.g., northeastern California plans), continue to limit OHV travel to designated routes in PHMAs and GHMAs (see Appendix A; Figure 2-13).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD TTM 3: Allow the goals, objectives, and actions in relevant national OHV guidance to guide subsequent implementation-level travel planning efforts. In addition, the following guidelines will be considered when undertaking future implementation-level travel planning: • Identify, prioritize, and update annually a timeline to complete travel planning in all relevant planning areas to accelerate data collection, route evaluation and selection, and on-the- ground implementation, including signing, monitoring, and rehabilitation. • Consult with interested user groups, federal, state, county, and local agencies, local landowners, and other parties to provide an opportunity for the public to express itself and have its views considered. Consequently, incorporate a public outreach plan to fully engage all interested stakeholders into future travel management plans. • Among other route evaluation criteria, incorporate criteria from 43 CFR, Part 8342.1, and specifically section (b), “areas and trails shall be located to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant disruption of wildlife habitats. Special attention will be given to protect endangered or threatened species and their habitats.” • Evaluate all routes to determine the purpose and need and the potential resource or user conflicts from motorized travel. Where resource or user conflicts outweigh the purpose and need for the route, consider closing the route or relocating it outside of PHMAs and GHMAs. Evaluate for administrative access only routes not required for public access or recreation against current administrative/agency purpose or need.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

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Consider closing routes that are duplicative, parallel, or redundant. - Consider seasonal restrictions (see Actions SSS 2 and SSS 3) on motorized travel use PHMAs and GHMAs where motorized vehicle use is a threat. Consider limiting over snow vehicles (OSVs) designed for use on a track or tracks or a ski or skis, while in use to designated routes or consider seasonal closures in GRSG wintering areas from November 1 through February 28. - Consider the need for restricting motorized vehicles, including their sound levels (Actions SSS 2 and SSS 3), speed and design (e.g., motorcycles, ATVs, and UTVs). - Consider scheduling road maintenance to avoid disturbance during sensitive GRSG life-cycle periods to the extent practicable. Consider using time of day, seasonal, and noise restrictions (see Actions SSS 2 and SSS 3) to reduce impacts on GRSG seasonal habitat. - In PHMAs and GHMAs, close to motorized travel those roads, primitive roads, and trails not designated in travel management plans. - In PHMAs and GHMAs, prioritize restoring routes not designated in a travel management plan. Obliterate and seed roads, primitive roads, and trails not designated in travel management plans, with appropriate seed mixes and transplanted sagebrush when applicable. Use fire-resistant species as fuel breaks where appropriate. Seed must be certified weed free.	(See above.)	(See above.)

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD TTM 4: In PHMAs and GHMAs, where new roads are necessary for public safety, administration, or public need, consider limiting route construction to realignments of existing routes where possible.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD TTM 5: In PHMAs and GHMAs, work with local governments to minimize upgrading existing routes that will change route category (e.g., road, primitive road, or trail) or capacity, unless the upgrade will maintain or enhance GRSG habitat, provide a fuel break to protect native vegetation, will be necessary for public safety, or will eliminate the need to construct a new road.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

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MD TTM 6: In PHMAs and GHMAs, temporary closures will be considered in accordance with 43 CFR, Subpart 8364 (Closures and Restrictions), 43 CFR, Subpart 8351 (Designated National Area), 43 CFR, Subpart 6302 (Use of Wilderness Areas, Prohibited Acts, and Penalties), and 43 CFR, Subpart 8341 (Conditions of Use). Temporary closure or restriction orders under these authorities are enacted at the discretion of the authorized officer to resolve management conflicts and protect persons, property, and public lands and resources. where an authorized officer determines that off-highway vehicles are causing or will cause considerable adverse effects upon soil, vegetation, wildlife, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, historical resources, threatened or endangered species, wilderness suitability, other authorized uses, or other resources, the affected areas shall be immediately closed to the type(s) of vehicle causing the adverse effect until the adverse effects are eliminated and measures implemented to prevent recurrence (43 CFR, Part 8341.2). A closure or restriction order shall be considered only after other management strategies and alternatives have been explored. The duration of temporary closure or restriction orders shall be limited to 24 months or less; however, certain situations may require longer closures and/or iterative temporary closures. This may include closure of routes or areas.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
Cultural Resources (CUL)	Cultural Resources (CUL)	—
<u>Management Decisions (MD):</u>	<u>Management Decisions (MD):</u>	—
MD CUL 1: Do not restrict tribal access to view GRSG breeding behavior for a tribe's traditional lifeways.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD CUL 2: Do not prohibit tribal access to traditional locations for cultural practices in PHMAs and GHMAs.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD CUL 3: Do not prohibit tribal collection of seeds, vegetation, or medicinal plants related to traditional cultural practices in PHMAs and GHMAs.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
Mitigation (MI)	Mitigation (MI)	—
Management Decisions (MD):	Management Decisions (MD):	—
MD MIT 1: In Nevada, coordinate with the SETT on the application of a compensatory mitigation program, such as the Nevada Conservation Credit System (CCS) (Appendix N) for mitigating activities that result in habitat loss and degradation of GRSG habitat in Nevada, where the application of compensatory mitigation will occur on, or the credit will be applied to disturbance on BLM-administered lands.	MD MIT 1: When authorizing third-party actions in GRSG HMAs, the BLM will seek to achieve the planning-level GRSG management goals and objectives through implementation of mitigation and management actions, consistent with valid existing rights and applicable law. Management will be consistent with the GRSG goals and objectives, and in conformance with BLM Manual 6840, Special Status Species Management. In accordance with BLM Manual 6840, the BLM will undertake planning decisions, actions and authorizations “to minimize or eliminate threats affecting the status of [GRSG] or to improve the condition of [GRSG] habitat” across the planning area. The BLM has determined that FLPMA does not explicitly mandate or authorize the BLM to require public land users to implement compensatory mitigation as a condition of obtaining authorization for the use of BLM-administered lands (IM 2019-018, Compensatory Mitigation, December 6, 2018). Consistent with that determination, compensatory mitigation must be voluntary unless required by other applicable laws, but the BLM recognizes that state authorities may also require compensatory mitigation. To align this planning effort with the BLM’s compensatory mitigation policy, IM 2019-018, the amended plans clarify that the BLM will consider compensatory mitigation	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
(See above.)	only when offered voluntarily by a project proponent, when required by a law other than FLPMA; or as a component of compliance with a state mitigation plan, program, or authority, such as required by State of Nevada Executive Order 2018-32 (and any future regulations adopted by the State of Nevada regarding compensatory mitigation, consistent with federal law). In accordance with the State's goals for managing Greater Sage-Grouse, the plans modify the net conservation gain standard for compensatory mitigation to clarify that the BLM would pursue net benefit/net conservation gain as a broader planning goal and objective. This means that the BLM would continue to require avoidance, minimization, and other onsite mitigation to adequately conserve Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat, while remaining committed to implementing beneficial habitat management actions to reduce the threats of fire and invasive species. In fiscal year 2018, the BLM funded approximately \$29 million in sage-grouse management actions resulting in approximately 500,000 acres of treated sage-grouse habitat and expects to invest another \$22.5 million of habitat management projects in fiscal year 2019 in the Great Basin Region. The BLM would continue to apply the mitigation hierarchy as described in the CEQ regulations at 40 CFR 1508.20; however, the BLM would focus on avoiding, minimizing, rectifying, and reducing impacts over time. Compensation, which involves replacing or providing substitute resources for the impacts (including through payments to fund such work), would be considered only when voluntarily offered by a proponent, required by a law other than FLPMA, or to meet a State requirement. The BLM commits to cooperating with the State to	(See above.)

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
(See above.)	analyze applicant-proposed or state-imposed compensatory mitigation to offset residual impacts. The BLM remains committed to achieving the planning-level management goals and objectives identified in this ROD and the 2015 ARMPA by ensuring Greater Sage-Grouse habitat impacts are addressed through implementing mitigating actions consistent with the governing RMP. In all GRSG habitat, before authorizing third-party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation within the State of Nevada, the BLM will complete the following steps, in alignment with the State of Nevada's Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan (2014, as amended), including avoiding, minimizing, and compensating for impacts by applying beneficial mitigation actions: 1. Notify the State of Nevada's Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team to determine if the State requires or recommends any mitigation – including avoidance, minimization, or compensatory mitigation – under the States' regulations, policies, or programs, such as required by the State of Nevada's Executive Order 2018-32 (and any future regulations adopted by the State of Nevada regarding compensatory mitigation, consistent with federal law), related to the conservation of GRSG. 2. Incorporate the States' required or recommended mitigation into the BLM's NEPA decision-making process, if the State of Nevada's Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team determines that there are unacceptable residual impacts on GRSG or its habitat and compensatory mitigation is required as a part of the State's policy or authorization, such as required by the State of Nevada's Executive Order 2018-32 (and any future regulations adopted by the	(See above.)

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
(See above.)	State of Nevada regarding compensatory mitigation, consistent with federal law), or if a proponent voluntarily offers mitigation. 3. Verify that the project proponent has coordinated with the State of Nevada's Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team to ensure it complies with the State of Nevada's Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan (2014, as amended) and all applicable State requirements relating to its proposal. The BLM will cooperate with the States to determine appropriate project design and alignment with the States' policies and requirements, including those regarding compensatory mitigation, such as the State of Nevada's Executive Order 2018-32 (and any future regulations adopted by the State of Nevada regarding compensatory mitigation, consistent with federal law). When the BLM is considering compensatory mitigation as a component of the project proponent's submission or based on a requirement of or recommendation from the States, the BLM's NEPA analysis will evaluate the need to avoid or minimize impacts of the proposed project and achieve the goals and objectives of this Approved RMPA. With respect to any State compensatory mitigation requirements, the BLM will defer to the appropriate State authority to quantify habitat offsets, durability, and other aspects used to determine the recommended compensatory mitigation action. The BLM will not deny a proposed authorization in GRSG habitat solely on the grounds that the proponent has not proposed or agreed to undertake voluntary compensatory mitigation, unless required by an existing States' authority such as the	(See above.)

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
(See above.)	State of Nevada’s Executive Order 2018-32 (and any future regulations adopted by the State of Nevada regarding compensatory mitigation, consistent with federal law). The BLM will ensure project design is aligned with the States’ requirements—including compensatory mitigation—that may be necessary to comply with State’s policies and programs for the conservation of GRSG. Where compensatory mitigation is required as part of a States’ plan, program, or authority, such as Nevada State Executive Order 2018-32 (and any future regulations adopted by the State of Nevada regarding compensatory mitigation, consistent with federal law), the BLM will include the required mitigation in all of its action alternatives in a NEPA analysis.	(See above.)
MD MIT 2: Identify compensatory mitigation areas in PHMAs and GHMAs with the potential to achieve GRSG habitat objectives (Table 2-2), in accordance with FIAT, the SFA prioritization, and the State of Nevada Strategic Action Plan.	MD MIT 2: On BLM-administered lands within Nevada and California, when authorizing third-party actions that will result in direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts on GRSG or their habitat, the BLM will defer to the State of Nevada’s most current version of the Habitat Quantification Tool (HQT) to quantify those impacts to ensure consistency in tracking and reporting changes to GRSG habitat quality and quantity.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2.12.2 Relevant Appendices

The following table shows which appendices from the 2015 and 2019 plans have management direction that may change through this RMP amendment. If 2019 is not listed in the year, then no change was made to the appendix between the 2015 and 2019 plans. The 2015 and 2019 Appendices can be found on [the Nevada and Northeastern California GRSG ePlanning website](#).

ARMPA Appendix Name	Year	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
A: Approved RMP Amendment Maps	2015	Yes
A: Maps	2019	Yes
B: Applying Lek Buffer-Distances When Approving Actions	2015	No
B: Lek Buffer-Distances (Evaluating Impacts on Leks)	2019	No
C: Required Design Features	2015	Yes (grazing BMPs)
C: Required Design Features Worksheet	2019	Yes (grazing BMPs)
D: Greater Sage-Grouse Monitoring Framework	2015	No
J: Monitoring Framework	2019	No
E: Greater Sage-Grouse Disturbance Cap Guidance	2015	Yes
F: Disturbance Cap Guidance	2019	Yes
G: Fluid Mineral Stipulations, Waivers, Modifications, and Exceptions	2015	Yes
E: Fluid Mineral Stipulations, Waivers, Modifications, and Exceptions	2019	Yes
H: Fire and Invasives Assessment Tool	2015, 2019	No
I: Avoid, Minimize and Apply Compensatory Mitigation	2015	Yes
F: Regional Mitigation Strategy	2015	Yes
J: Adaptive Management Plan	2015	Yes
D: Adaptive Management Plan	2019	Yes
K USFWS Biological Opinion	2015	No
L: VDDT Methodology	2015	No
I: VDDT Methodology	2019	No
M: Greater Sage-Grouse Noise Protocol	2015	No
G: Noise Protocol	2019	No
N: State of Nevada Conservation Credit System	2015	No

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Appendix 2.13

Oregon RMPs

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2.13 OREGON RMPs

This appendix presents the GRSG approved RMP amendment language from the 2015 and 2019 records of decision for Oregon. Changes between 2015 and 2019 are noted. The table below notes which goals, objectives, appendices, and management decisions/actions have a potential to change as a result of the current planning effort and if so, under which alternatives changes are being considered. Note that any references to tables and appendices are to those applicable 2015 and 2019 appendices that are listed in **Section 2.13.2** of this appendix.

2.13.1 Existing GRSG RMP Management – Oregon RMPs

Table 1: Changes in Management from the 2015 Approved ARMPA to the 2019 Approved ARMPA

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
—	Plan outcome (goal, objective, management direction (MD)) Published plan included only text provided in this column and did not reprint all text from Column A (as maintained in Column B) - Text in this column replaced text in Column A for the Goals, Objectives, and Management Directions. Other maintenance actions noted after goals, objectives, and management directions.	—
Special Status Species (SSS)	Special Status Species (SSS)	—
Goal	Goal	—
Goal SSS 1: Conserve, enhance, and restore the sagebrush ecosystem upon which GRSG populations depend in an effort to maintain and/or increase their abundance and distribution, in cooperation with other conservation partners.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Objective	Objective	—
Objective SSS 1: Protect PHMA necessary to conserve 90 percent of Oregon's Greater Sage-grouse population with emphasis on highest density and important use areas that provide for breeding, wintering, and connectivity corridors. Protect GHMA necessary to conserve occupied seasonal or year-round habitat outside of PHMA.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Objective SSS 2: Maintain or improve habitat connectivity between PHMA within Oregon and adjoining states to promote Greater Sage-grouse movement and genetic diversity.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Objective SSS 3: In addition to the net conservation gain mitigation requirement, manage Oregon PACs so that discrete anthropogenic disturbances, whether temporary or permanent, cover less than 3 percent of the total available Greater Sage-grouse habitat, regardless of ownership.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Per Oregon Maintenance Action 2: Objective SSS 4: The habitat objectives for GRSG (Table 2-2) is a list of indicators, characteristics, and values that describe GRSG seasonal habitat use areas. The BLM used indicator values derived from a synthesis of local and regional GRSG habitat research and data to describe the typical vegetation communities that sage-grouse select. While the habitat objectives are not attainable on every site or every acre within designated GRSG habitat management areas, the values reflect a range of habitat conditions that generally lead to greater survival of individuals within a population. When permitting land use activities, BLM should consider the ecological site potential within designated habitat management areas to validate the habitat conditions achievable for a specific site. The seasonal habitat descriptions in Table 2-2 vary across the range of sage-grouse, within a subregion, and between sites. They are not land health standards but are quantitative measures that inform the Special Status Species Habitat Land Health Standard for sage-grouse. These measurable values reflect ecological potential, and may be adjusted based on local factors influencing sage-grouse habitat selection. Local data or recent science may indicate that sage-grouse select for vegetation structure and composition in seasonal habitats not characterized by the values in the habitat objectives table. In these cases, it may be appropriate to adjust the values. Habitat objectives should be evaluated in the context of annual variability in ecological conditions and should not be used singly to determine habitat suitability for sage-grouse. They may be used to demonstrate trends over time, during plan evaluations for effectiveness of sage-grouse	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
conservation, or when identify limiting habitat characteristics for a given area. The indicators, characteristics, values and desired seasonal habitat conditions in the GRSG Plan Habitat Objectives Table are meant to inform the wildlife habitat component of the Land Health Standards evaluation process (LHS, 43 CFR 4180.2), but do not replace rangeland health assessments. Results from the LHS evaluation should be used to support BLM in land use authorization processes and during development of objectives for management actions such as vegetation treatments. BLM land use authorizations will contain terms and conditions regarding the actions needed to achieve or make progress toward achieving habitat objectives and land health standards. The Habitat Objectives Tables are to be used: • To assess habitat suitability for sage-grouse following the BLM policy on sage-grouse habitat assessments • To evaluate land use plan effectiveness for sage-grouse conservation, and • As a basis to develop measurable project objectives for actions in BLM-designated GRSG Habitat Management areas when considered alongside land health standards, ecological potential, and local information. References: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. 2001. Rangeland health standards handbook H-4180-1. https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/uploads/Media_Library_BLM_Policy_h4180-1.pdf	(See above.)	(See above.)
Objective SSS 5: Manage anthropogenic uses and GRSG predator subsidies on public lands (landfills, transfer stations, predator perches and nest sites) to reduce the effects of predation on GRSG.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Objective SSS 6: The BLM will coordinate with the State of Oregon regarding proposed management changes, the implementation of conservation measures, mitigation, and site-specific monitoring related to adaptive management and anthropogenic disturbance.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Management Direction	Management Direction	—
MD SSS 1: Designate PHMA on 4,578,518 acres and designate GHMA on 5,628,628 acres.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 2: Designate Sagebrush Focal Areas (SFA) (1,929,580 acres) as shown on Figure 1-2: Oregon Decision Area, Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management Areas for BLM-Administered Lands (with SFA). SFAs will be managed as PHMA, with the following additional management: A. Recommended for withdrawal from the General Mining Law of 1872, as amended, subject to valid existing rights. B. Managed as NSO, without waiver, exception, or modification, for fluid mineral leasing. C. Prioritized for vegetation management and conservation actions in these areas, including, but not limited to land health assessments, wild horse and burro management actions, review of livestock grazing permits/leases, and habitat restoration (see specific management sections).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 3: If the 3% anthropogenic disturbance cap, not to exceed 1% increase per decade, is exceeded on lands (regardless of landownership) within GRSG Priority Habitat Management Areas in the affected Oregon PAC, then no further discrete anthropogenic disturbances (subject to applicable laws and regulations, such as the General Mining Law of 1872, as amended, valid existing rights, etc.) will be permitted by BLM within GRSG Priority Habitat Management Areas in the affected Oregon PAC until the disturbance has been reduced to less than the cap.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD SSS 4: If the 3% disturbance cap, not to exceed 1% increase per decade, is exceeded on all lands (regardless of landownership) within a proposed project analysis area in Priority Habitat Management Areas, then no further anthropogenic disturbance will be permitted by BLM until disturbance in the proposed project analysis area has been reduced to maintain the area under the cap (subject to applicable laws and regulations, such as General Mining Law of 1872, as amended, valid existing rights, etc.). Within existing designated utility corridors, the 3% disturbance cap may be exceeded at the project scale if the site specific NEPA analysis indicates that a net conservation gain to the species will be achieved. This exception is limited to projects which fulfill the use for which the corridors were designated (ex., transmission lines, pipelines) and the designated width of a corridor will not be exceeded as a result of any project co-location.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 5: Subject to applicable laws and regulations and valid existing rights, if the average density of one energy and mining facility per 640 acres (the density cap) is exceeded on all lands (regardless of land ownership) in the Priority Habitat Management Area within a proposed project analysis area, then no further disturbance from energy or mining facilities will be permitted by BLM: (1) until disturbance in the proposed project analysis area has been reduced to maintain the limit under the cap; or (2) unless the energy or mining facility is co-located into an existing disturbed area, as described in Appendix E.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD SSS-6: Using the habitat disturbance cap calculation methodology (Appendix E), in cooperation with ODFW, measure the direct area of influence of infrastructure, facilities, energy, and mining within Oregon PACs (Figure 2-2 in Appendix A) and maintain a current database of anthropogenic disturbance.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Oregon 2015 GRS G ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRS G ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD SSS 7: Verify the accuracy of Greater Sage-grouse habitat data layers at the site/project scale. Consider ecological site potential when assessing habitat suitability for Greater Sage-grouse. Periodically update PHMA and GHMA in cooperation with ODFW using the best available information.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MDSSS 8: When fine and site-scale Greater Sage-grouse habitat assessment and monitoring is needed or required, (e.g., as a component of a rangeland health assessment), measure the Greater Sage-grouse habitat suitability indicators for seasonal habitats identified in Table 2-2. Site suitability values may be adjusted regionally where there is scientific justification for doing so. When using the indicators to guide management actions or during land health assessments, consider that the indicators are sensitive to the ecological processes operating at the scale of interest and that a single habitat indicator does not necessarily define habitat suitability for an area or particular scale.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD SSS 9: Apply buffers and seasonal restrictions in Table 2-4 to all occupied or pending leks in PHMA and GHMA to avoid direct disturbance to Greater Sage-grouse. In undertaking BLM management actions, and consistent with valid and existing rights and applicable law in authorizing third-party actions, the BLM will apply the lek buffer-distances identified in the USGS Report Conservation Buffer Distance Estimates for Greater Sage-Grouse—A Review (Open File Report 2014-1239) (Manier et al. 2014; Appendix B).	No changes made.	No change proposed.
See Table 2-3 Greater Sage-Grouse Buffers (text included in table 2-3 after this comparison table)	No changes made.	No change proposed.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD SSS 10: In undertaking BLM management actions, and, consistent with valid existing rights and applicable law, in authorizing third party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation, the BLM will require and ensure mitigation that provides a net conservation gain to the species including accounting for any uncertainty associated with the effectiveness of such mitigation. This will be achieved by avoiding, minimizing, and compensating for impacts by applying beneficial mitigation actions.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 11: Anthropogenic disturbances or activities disruptive to GRSG (including scheduled maintenance activities) shall not occur in seasonal GRSG habitats unless the project plan and NEPA document demonstrate the project will not impair the life-cycle or behavioral needs of GRSG populations. Seasonal avoidance periods vary by GRSG seasonal habitat as follows: • In breeding habitat within four (4) miles of occupied and pending leks from March 1 through June 30. Lek hourly restrictions are from two hours before sunset to two hours after sunrise at the perimeter of an occupied or pending lek. • Brood-rearing habitat from July 1 to October 31 • Winter habitat from November 1- February 28 The seasonal dates may be modified due to documented local variations (e.g., higher/lower elevations) or annual climactic fluctuations (e.g., early/late spring, long and/or heavy winter) in coordination with ODFW, in order to better protect GRSG.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD SSS 12: Identify Greater Sage-grouse habitat outside of PHMA that can function as connecting habitat. Consider the habitat connectivity map developed by The Nature Conservancy and BLM for Oregon (Jones and Schindel, 2015). When conducting analysis for project level NEPA, include Greater Sage-grouse habitat and populations in adjoining states within 4 miles of leks in Oregon.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD SSS 13: All authorized actions in Greater Sage-grouse habitat are subject to RDFs and BMPs in Appendix C and these disturbance screening criteria: Where avoidance is not possible, disturbance will be allowed under the following conditions: • Development in each Oregon PAC and PHMA does not exceed the disturbance cap at either the Oregon PAC scale or the project scale (Appendix E). • New anthropogenic disturbance does not occur within 1.0 mile of an occupied or pending lek in PHMA or GHMA. • Development meets noise restrictions in PHMA and GHMA. • Analyze through implementation level NEPA seasonal protection and timing limitations of occupied and pending leks in PHMA and GHMA. • All disturbance is subject to net conservation gain mitigation to Greater Sage-grouse and its habitat (see Appendix F, Mitigation) in PHMA and GHMA. • All new permitted activities will follow Required Design Features (Appendix C) in PHMA and GHMA.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
• To the extent feasible, development should only occur in non-habitat areas. If this is not possible, then development must occur in the least suitable habitat for Greater Sage-grouse. • Apply buffers and seasonal restrictions in Table 2-4 to all occupied or pending leks in PHMA and GHMA to avoid direct disturbance to Greater Sage-grouse. Screening criteria and conditions will not be applicable to vegetation treatments being conducted to enhance GRSG habitat, except noise and seasonal restrictions will apply.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD SSS 14: Assist ODFW and other partners with surveillance and, where appropriate, control of West Nile virus. Report observations of dead or sick Greater Sage-grouse or other bird deaths that could be attributed to disease or parasites.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD 15: Implement adaptive management responses to hard and soft triggers established in the Adaptive Management Strategy (Appendix J). Hard trigger responses will be removed, either through a plan amendment or when the criteria for recovery have been met (see Appendix J - Longevity of Responses). Removal of the hard trigger responses returns management direction in the affected Oregon PAC to the plan decisions that are in force within those Oregon PACs that have not tripped a hard trigger.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Vegetation (VEG)	Vegetation (VEG)	—
Goal	Goal	—
Goal VEG 1: Increase the resistance of Greater Sage-grouse habitat to invasive annual grasses and the resiliency of Greater Sage-grouse habitat to disturbances such as fire and climate change to reduce habitat loss and fragmentation.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Goal VEG 2: Within Greater Sage-grouse habitat, re-establish sagebrush cover, native grasses, and forbs in areas where they have been reduced below desired levels or lost. Use ecological site descriptions to determine appropriate levels of sagebrush cover and appropriate native grasses and forbs.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Goal VEG 3: Use integrated vegetation management to control, suppress, and eradicate invasive plant species per BLM Handbook H-1740-2. Apply ecologically based invasive plant management principles in developing responses to invasive plant species.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Objective	Objective	—
Objective VEG 1: Within the boundaries of each Field Office establish a mix of sagebrush classes as identified in Table 2-4, Desired Mix of Sagebrush Classes by Sagebrush Type on BLM-administered lands in Greater Sage-grouse habitat. Evaluate progress toward the objective every 10 years.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Table 2-4 Desired Mix of Sagebrush Classes by Sage Brush Type (text included in table 2-4 after this comparison table)	No changes made.	No change proposed.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Objective VEG 2: Reduce encroaching conifer cover to zero within 1.0 mile of all occupied or pending leks and to less than 5 percent within 4.0 miles of such leks at a rate at least equal to the rate of encroachment. Priorities for treatment are phase I and phase II juniper, and phase III juniper with a grass-forb understory. Retain all old trees, culturally significant trees, and trees in active use by special status species (e.g. nest, den, and roost trees) and all old growth stands of juniper within 4.0 miles of occupied or pending leks. See OSU Technical Bulletin 152, or its successor, for the key characteristics of old trees. Old growth stands are those where the dominant trees in the stand meet the key characteristics for old trees. Pending occupied leks and pending unoccupied leks are hereafter collectively referred to as “pending leks” (see Glossary).	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Objective VEG 3: Reduce the area dominated by invasive annual grasses to no more than 5 percent within 4.0 miles of all occupied or pending leks. Manage vegetation to retain resistance to invasion where invasive annual grasses dominate less than 5 percent of the area within 4.0 miles of such leks.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Objective VEG 4: Thin sagebrush stands that exceed 30 percent cover in cool-moist sagebrush and 25 percent cover warm-dry sagebrush to no less than 15 percent cover within 4.0 miles of all occupied or pending leks.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Objective VEG 5: Increase native plant diversity (number of species) to at least 50 percent of the potential diversity listed for the relevant ecological site description and sagebrush cover where it is less than 15 percent in half of crested wheatgrass seedings in PHMA. If existing diversity equals or exceeds 50 percent of the potential diversity, no forb restoration is needed.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Objective VEG 6: Conduct vegetation treatments based on the following 10-year (decadal) acreage objectives within four miles of occupied and pending leks, using results of the fire and invasives assessment tool (FIAT; Fire and Invasive Assessment Team 2014) to establish the priority PACs and treatments within PACs:	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Objective VEG 7: Each Oregon PAC has at least 5 percent sagebrush cover on a minimum of 70 percent of the area within the Oregon PAC that is capable of supporting sagebrush plant communities. Use ecological site descriptions to determine which sites are capable of supporting sagebrush plant communities.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Objective VEG 8: Coordinate vegetation management activities with adjoining landowners.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Objective VEG 9: In all Sagebrush Focal Areas and Priority Habitat Management Areas, the desired condition is to maintain all lands ecologically capable of producing sagebrush (but no less than 70%) with a minimum of 15% sagebrush cover or as consistent with specific ecological site conditions. The attributes necessary to sustain these habitats are described in Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health (BLM Tech Ref 1734-6) and in Table 2-5.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Table 2-5 Decadal Treatment Objectives for GRSG Habitat (text included in table 2-5 after this comparison table)	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Management Direction	Management Direction	—
Habitat Restoration:	—	—
MD VEG 1: Priority areas for Greater Sage-grouse habitat restoration and maintenance projects are*: • Sites with a higher probability of success. • Seasonal habitats thought to be limiting to Greater Sage-grouse populations. • Connectivity corridors between Greater Sage-grouse populations and subpopulations. • Following stand-replacing events at least 100 acres in size. *Not in priority order. Incorporate these priorities in the assessments conducted using the FIAT process detailed in Appendix H.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD VEG 2: Base species composition, function, and structure of sagebrush communities on ecological site descriptions. Use climate change science concerning projected changes in species ranges and changes in site capability to adjust expected and desired native species compositions as that information becomes available.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 3: Do not treat sagebrush during nesting and early brood-rearing within 4.0 miles of occupied or pending leks. Conduct pre-treatment lek surveys to determine if the lek is active. Breeding and brood-rearing typically occur from March 1 to June 30; use local information to further refine this period.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 4: Cutting of juniper can occur within 4.0 miles of an occupied or pending lek during the breeding season from two hours after sunrise and two hours before sunset.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 5: Vegetation management activities that are timing-sensitive for maximum effectiveness, such as herbicide application or seeding operations, can occur during the breeding season within 4.0 miles of occupied or pending leks. Limit operations to no more than 5 days and to the period beginning two hours after sunrise and ending two hours before sunset during the breeding and early brood rearing period. Conduct pre-treatment surveys for nests and do not damage or destroy identified nests during treatment operations. Conduct operations so as to minimize the risk of accidentally killing chicks. Breeding and early-brood-rearing typically occur from March 1 through June 30; use local information to further refine this period.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 6: Use adaptive management principles (for example, monitoring and adjusting seed mixes, planting methods or timing of planting to increase success rates) to provide for persistence of seeded or planted species important to Greater Sage-grouse.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 7: Do not use non-specific insecticides in brood-rearing habitat during the brood-rearing period. Use instar-specific insecticides to limit impacts on Greater Sage-grouse chick food sources.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD VEG 8: Use native plant materials for restoration and rehabilitation based on availability, adaptive capacity, and probability of successful establishment (see Appendix I). Where native plant material availability or probability of successful establishment is low, use desirable non-native plant materials that are of a similar functional/structural group as native plant species (e.g. deep-rooted, tall perennial bunchgrass, tap-rooted perennial forb).	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 9: When sufficient native plant materials are available, use native plant materials unless the area is immediately threatened by invasive plant species spread or dominance. Use non-native plant materials as necessary to: 1. Limit or control invasive plant species spread or dominance. 2. Create fuel breaks along roads and ROWs. 3. Create defensible space within 0.5 mile of human residences.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 10: When seedings include non-native plant materials, evaluate post-planting within 10 years to determine the need to increase native species populations or compositions to be more representative of the ecological site description and capability. When existing native herbaceous diversity is less than 50 percent of the potential diversity for the applicable ecological site description, conduct treatments to increase the diversity.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 11: Do not conduct forage enhancement solely for domestic livestock in PHMA.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 12: Adjust discretionary land uses, such as active use for livestock grazing or recreational uses or seasons, as needed to facilitate attainment and persistence of vegetation restoration objectives.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD VEG 13: Use provisional and established seed zones identified by the Great Basin Native Plant Project (http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/grassland-shrubland-desert/research/projects/gbnpsip/) to determine appropriate seed sources for grasses, forbs, and shrubs. Identify sagebrush seed collection areas to provide locally adapted sagebrush seed sources.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 14: Allowable methods for vegetation treatment include mechanical, biological (including targeted grazing), chemical, or wildland fire or combinations of these general treatment categories.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 15: Create mosaics of varying sagebrush density using spot treatments within the treatment area. Sagebrush density shall be equivalent to Classes 1 through 4 in cool-moist sagebrush and Classes 1 through 3 in warm-dry sagebrush (see Table 2-4). Maximum stand-replacement patch size shall not exceed 25 acres and total stand-replacement patches shall not exceed 15 percent of the treatment block. See Required Design Features for additional details.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 16: Test new potential restoration methods in areas with a sagebrush overstory and an annual grass understory.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 17: Remove conifers encroaching into sagebrush habitats, in a manner that considers tribal cultural values. Prioritize treatments closest to occupied GRSG habitats and near occupied leks, and where juniper encroachment is phase 1 or phase 2. Use site-specific analysis and tools such as VDDT and the FIAT process (Appendix H), or their successors, to refine the specific locations to be treated.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 18: Apply additional restoration treatments, such as seeding or planting, in conjunction with juniper removal in areas with more than trace amounts of invasive annual grasses or where the pre-treatment understory has less than 2 healthy bunchgrass plants per 10 square feet in cool-moist sagebrush or less than 4 healthy bunchgrass plants per 10 square feet in warm-dry sagebrush.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD VEG 19: Conduct jackpot burning of cut juniper when soils are frozen or snow-covered and moisture content of felled trees is low enough to promote complete or near complete consumption of branches. Leaving the bole portion is acceptable.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Integrated Invasive Species:	—	—
MD VEG 20: In priority treatment areas for invasive annual grasses, apply early detection-rapid response principles on*: • New infestations. • Satellite populations. • Isolated populations. • Where invasive annual grasses are still sub-dominant. • Edges of large infestations • Where sites are frequently or commonly used for temporary infrastructure such as incident base camps, spike camps, staging areas, and helicopter landing areas. *Not in priority order. Incorporate these priorities in the assessments conducted using the process detailed in Appendix H (FIAT process).	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 21: Allowable methods of invasive plant control include mechanical, chemical, biological (including targeted grazing, biocides, and bio-controls), or prescribed fire or combinations of these methods. Treat areas that contain cheatgrass and other invasive or noxious species to minimize competition and favor establishment of desired species.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 22: Use of approved herbicides, biocides, and bio-controls is allowed on all land allocations currently providing or reasonably expected to provide Greater Sage-grouse habitat. Follow the guidance in the 2010 Record of Decision for Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on BLM Lands in Oregon and subsequent step-down decision records, when complete, or successor/subsequent decisions governing the use of additional herbicides and biocides.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD VEG 23: On Type I through Type III wildfires provide and require the use of weed washing stations and acceptable disposal of subsequent waste water and material to minimize the risk of further spread. Wash all vehicles and equipment arriving from outside the local area before initial use in the fire area and during post-fire emergency stabilization and rehabilitation operations. Wash all vehicles and equipment prior to release from the incident to reduce the probability of transporting invasive plant materials to other locations.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 24: Wash vehicles and equipment used in field operations prior to use in areas without known infestations of invasive plants. Wash vehicles and equipment used in areas with known infestations prior to use in another area to limit the further spread of invasive species to other locations.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 25: Locate base camps, spike camps, coyote camps, or other temporary infrastructure in areas that lack invasive plant populations. Where no such options are available provide for post-operation invasive plant treatments.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Fire and Fuels Management (FIRE)	Fire and Fuels Management (FIRE)	—
Objective	Objective	—
Objective FIRE 1: Manage wildland fire and hazardous fuels to protect, enhance, and restore Greater Sage-grouse habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Objective FIRE 2: Use a combination of vegetation management and wildfire response to minimize the probability of a wildfire tripping an adaptive management trigger for habitat within an Oregon PAC. (See Appendix J for adaptive management triggers).	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Objective FIRE 3: Within 4.0 miles of occupied or pending leks, maintain or develop a mosaic of structure and species of sagebrush consistent with site potential and vegetation management objectives. See Vegetation Objectives section for desired outcomes and conditions.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Management Direction	Management Direction	—
MD FIRE 1: Complete an interagency landscape-scale assessment (Appendix H) to prioritize at-risk habitats and identify fuels management, preparedness, suppression, and restoration priorities based on the quality of habitat at risk as directed in the Secretarial Order for Rangeland Fire SO3336. Update these assessments as necessary or when major disturbances occur. Within Greater Sage-grouse habitat, prioritize suppression and fuels management activities based on an assessment of the quality of habitat at risk.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 2: The protection of human life is the single, overriding priority. Setting priorities among protecting human communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources will be done based on the values to be protected, human health and safety, and the costs of protection. Prioritize Greater Sage-grouse habitat commensurate with property values and other habitat to be protected, with the goal to restore, enhance, and maintain these areas.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 3: Within PHMA and GHMA, prioritize fire management activities in order to protect and restore Greater Sage-grouse habitat and reduce the impacts of large wildfires as follows: 1. Habitat within 4.0 miles of an occupied or pending lek. 2. Greater Sage-grouse winter range.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 4: Incorporate locations of priority Greater Sage-grouse protection areas into the dispatch system. Provide local Greater Sage-grouse habitat maps to dispatch offices and initial attack Incident Commanders for use in prioritizing wildfire suppression resources and designing suppression tactics.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 5: During fire management operations, retain unburned areas of sagebrush, including interior islands and patches between roads and the fire perimeter unless there is a compelling safety, resource protection, or wildfire management objective at risk.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD FIRE 6: Follow established direction in the current Interagency Standards for Fire Operations (Red Book) with respect to use of resource advisors, annual review of fire management plans for updates relevant to Greater Sage-grouse habitat, and contents of the Delegation of Authority letters.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 7: Allow retardant and other fire suppressant chemicals use on all land allocations except where expressly prohibited by land allocation direction. Use of retardant and other fire suppressant chemicals can be specifically allowed by the authorized official when prohibited by land allocation direction. Allow retardant use on all land allocations regardless of management direction when there is imminent threat to human life.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 8: Allow mechanical fire line except: • Where prohibited by other resource direction (e.g., wilderness, soils, hydrology, and riparian management) • Where inconsistent with direction for specific land allocations The authorized official may approve exceptions.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 9: Allow use of naturally ignited wildfires to meet resource management objectives to improve Greater Sage-grouse habitat such as reducing juniper encroachment and creating mosaics of sagebrush classes. When natural ignitions occur, utilize an interdisciplinary process (including a wildlife biologist familiar with GRSG habitat requirements) to determine if the fire could be managed to meet GRSG and vegetation objectives.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 10: Locate base camps, spike camps, drop points, staging areas, helicopter landing areas, and other temporary wildfire infrastructure in areas where physical disturbance to Greater Sage-grouse habitat can be minimized, to the extent feasible.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 11: Develop a system of fuel breaks to protect larger intact blocks of Greater Sage-grouse habitat. Locate these fuel breaks along existing roads and ROWs, where possible.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

Oregon 2015 GRS G ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRS G ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD FIRE 12: In Greater Sage-grouse habitat, reduce hazardous fuels created by other management actions, such as establishment of new roads, trails, or ROWs within 3 years of project completion. The reduction should be sufficient to limit fire spread or undesirable fire behavior or fire effects in sagebrush ecosystems.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 13: Use interagency- coordinated fire restrictions and public service announcements to reduce the number of human starts in or near Greater Sage-grouse habitat during periods of elevated fire danger.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 14: Develop annual treatment and fire management programs in coordination with interagency partners and across jurisdictional boundaries based on priorities identified in the local District Landscape Wildfire and Invasive Species Assessment.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 15: Complete an annual review of landscape assessment implementation efforts with interagency partners.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 16: Implement appropriate fire operations and fuels management RDFs identified in Appendix C.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 17: Include information on the resource value of Greater Sage-grouse habitat in existing prevention plans.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD FIRE 18: If prescribed fire is used in Greater Sage-grouse habitat, the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan will address: • why alternative techniques were not selected as a viable options; • how Greater Sage-grouse goals and objectives would be met by its use; • how the COT Report objectives would be addressed and met; • a risk assessment to address how potential threats to Greater Sage-grouse habitat would be minimized. Prescribed fire as a vegetation or fuels treatment shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Prescribed fire could be used to meet specific fuels objectives that would protect Greater Sage-grouse habitat in PHMA (e.g., creation of fuel breaks that would disrupt the fuel continuity across the landscape in stands where annual invasive grasses are a minor component in the understory, burning slash piles from conifer reduction treatments, used as a component with other treatment methods to combat annual grasses and restore native plant communities). Prescribed fire in known winter range shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Any prescribed fire in winter habitat would need to be designed to strategically reduce wildfire risk around and/or in the winter range and designed to protect winter range habitat quality.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Livestock Grazing/Range Management (LG)	Livestock Grazing/Range Management (LG)	—
Objective	Objective	—
Objective LG 1: Manage livestock grazing to maintain or improve Greater Sage-grouse habitat by achieving Standards for Rangeland Health (SRH).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
Objective LG 2: On BLM-managed lands, 12,083,622 acres will continue to be available for livestock grazing in Greater Sage-grouse habitat. In key RNAs, 22,765 acres will be unavailable to livestock grazing. See Table 2-6, Key ACECs and RNAs for ARMPA.	Objective LG2: On BLM-managed lands, 12,105,581 acres will continue to be available for livestock grazing in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat. Table 2-6 is no longer applicable and is therefore deleted.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Table 2-6 Key ACECs and RNAs (text included in table 2-5 after this comparison table)	Table 2-6 is no longer applicable and is therefore deleted.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
Objective LG 3: Complete rangeland health assessments for grazing permits/leases that have not been renewed and prioritized by Allotment Categories I, M, and C. The priority order for completing rangeland health assessments in Greater Sage-grouse habitat is: 1. Allotments containing SFA that have never been evaluated. 2. Allotments containing SFA that have not been re-evaluated in 10 or more years. 3. Allotments containing PHMA that have never been evaluated. 4. Allotments containing PHMA that have not been re-evaluated in 10 or more years. 5. Allotments containing GHMA that have never been evaluated. 6. Allotments containing GHMA that have not been re-evaluated in 10 or more years.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Direction	Management Direction	—
MD LG 1: All or portions of key RNAs will be unavailable to grazing (Table 2-6). Determine whether to remove fences, corrals, or water storage facilities (e.g. reservoirs, catchments, ponds).	MD LG 1 is deleted. Livestock grazing management in the 13 key RNAs returns to being governed by applicable district RMPs as amended by the 2015 Oregon Greater Sage-Grouse ROD/ARMPA goals, objectives, and management decisions.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD LG 2: When livestock management practices are determined to not be compatible with meeting or making progress towards achievable habitat objectives following appropriate consultation, cooperating and coordination, implement changes in grazing management through grazing authorization modifications, or allotment management plan implementation. Potential modifications include, but are not limited to, changes in: 1. Season or timing of use; 2. Numbers of livestock; 3. Distribution of livestock use; 4. Duration and/or level of use; 5. Locations of bed grounds, sheep camps, trail routes, and the like; 6. Extended rest or temporary closure from grazing through BLM administrative actions; 7. Make allotment unavailable to grazing; 8. Kind of livestock (e.g., cattle, sheep, horses, or goats) (Briske et al. 2011); and 9. Grazing schedules (including rest or deferment). *Not in Priority Order When SRH are being met no changes in current management or activity plans or permits/leases are required, but could occur to meet other resource management objectives.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 3: The timing and location of livestock turnout and trailing shall not contribute to livestock congregation on occupied or pending leks during the Greater Sage-grouse breeding season of March 1 through June 30.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD LG 4: When fine and site-scale Greater Sage-grouse habitat assessment and monitoring is needed or required, (e.g., as a component of a rangeland health assessment), measure the Greater Sage-grouse habitat suitability indicators for seasonal habitats identified in Table 2-2. Site suitability values may be adjusted regionally where there is scientific justification for doing so. When using the indicators to guide management actions or during land health assessments, consider that the indicators are sensitive to the ecological processes operating at the scale of interest and that a single habitat indicator does not necessarily define habitat suitability for an area or particular scale.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 5: During drought conditions use a recognized drought indicator, such as the Drought Monitor or Palmer Drought Severity Index, to determine when abnormally dry or drought conditions are developing, present, or easing. When such conditions are developing or present: 1. Conduct pre-season assessments prior to livestock turn out. 2. Monitor vegetation conditions during authorized livestock use periods to determine need for early removal or other changes to meet seasonal PHMA and GHMA objectives. If livestock grazing is deferred due to drought, reevaluate vegetation and Greater Sage-grouse habitat indicators that measure Greater Sage-grouse habitat prior to reauthorization of grazing.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 6: Authorize new, relocate, or modify existing range improvements that use seeps or springs as a water source to enhance their year round functionality. Install or retrofit wildlife escape ramps in all livestock water troughs or water storage facilities (e.g., catchments, storage tanks). Maintain, enhance, or reestablish riparian areas in PHMA and GHMA	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD LG 7: Identify playas, wetlands, and springs that have been modified for livestock watering within PHMA and GHMA. Identify those water improvements that have Greater Sage-grouse population limiting implications, and develop projects for rehabilitation. Further actions should be instigated for development of water off site; new water should be available before existing water is eliminated.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 8: Design new and maintain existing water projects to avoid standing pools of shallow water that would spread West Nile Virus.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 9: Remove, modify, or mark fences identified as high risk for collisions, generally within 1.2 miles of occupied or pending leks.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 10: Avoid construction of livestock facilities and supplemental feeding of livestock within 1.2 mile of occupied or pending leks in Greater Sage-grouse habitat unless it is part of an approved habitat improvement project or approved by the authorized officer to improve ecological health or to create mosaics in dense sagebrush stands that are needed for optimum Greater Sage-grouse habitat. Supplemental feeding in Greater Sage-grouse habitat must be part of an approved habitat improvement plan or approved by the authorized officer.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 11: Sagebrush Focal Areas will be prioritized for management and conservation actions, including, but not limited to review of livestock grazing permits/leases.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 12: The BLM will prioritize (1) the review of grazing permits/leases, in particular to determine if modification is necessary prior to renewal, and (2) the processing of grazing permits/leases in Sagebrush Focal Areas (SFA) followed by PHMA outside of the SFA. In setting workload priorities, precedence will be given to existing permits/leases in these areas not meeting Land Health Standards, with focus on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows. The BLM may use other criteria for prioritization to respond to urgent natural resource concerns (e.g. fire) and legal obligations.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD LG 13: The NEPA analysis for renewals and modifications of livestock grazing permits/leases that include lands within SFA and PHMA will include specific management thresholds based on GRSG Habitat Objectives Table 2-2, Land Health Standards (43 CFR, Part 4180.2) and ecological site potential, and one or more defined responses that will allow the authorizing officer to make adjustments to livestock grazing that have already been subjected to NEPA analysis.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 14: Allotments within SFA, followed by those within PHMA, and focusing on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows, will be prioritized for field checks to help ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the grazing permits. Field checks could include monitoring for actual use, utilization, and use supervision.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 15: At the time a permittee or lessee voluntarily relinquishes a permit or lease, the BLM will consider whether the public lands where that permitted use was authorized should remain available for livestock grazing or be used for other resource management objectives, such as reserve common allotments. This does not apply to or impact grazing preference transfers, which are addressed in 43 CFR, Part 4110.2-3.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Wild Horses and Burros (WHB)	Wild Horses and Burros (WHB)	—
Objective	Objective	—
Objective WHB 1: Manage wild horses and burros as components of BLM-administered lands in a manner that preserves and maintains a thriving natural ecological balance in a multiple use relationship.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
Objective WHB 2: Manage wild horse and burro population levels within established appropriate management levels (AML).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
Objective 3: Complete assessments of Greater Sage-grouse habitat indicators for HMAs containing PHMA and GHMA. The priorities for conducting evaluations are: 1. HMAs containing SFA. 2. HMAs containing PHMA. 3. HMAs containing GHMA. 4. HMAs without GRSG Habitat.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Management Direction	Management Direction	—
MD WHB 1: Manage herd management areas (HMAs) in GRSG habitat within established AML ranges to achieve and maintain GRSG habitat objectives (Table 2-2).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD WHB 2: Complete rangeland health assessments for HMAs containing GRSG habitat using an interdisciplinary team of specialists (e.g. range, wildlife, and riparian). The priorities for conducting assessments are: 1. HMAs containing SFA; 2. HMAs containing PHMA; 3. HMAs containing only GHMA; 4. HMAs containing sagebrush habitat outside of PHMA and GHMA mapped habitat; 5. HMAs without GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD WHB 3: Prioritize gathers and population growth suppression techniques in HMAs in GRSG habitat, unless removals are necessary in other areas to address higher priority environmental issues, including herd health impacts. Place higher priority on Herd Areas not allocated as Herd Management Areas and occupied by wild horses and burros in SFA followed by PHMA.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD WHB 4: In SFA and PHMA outside of SFA, assess and adjust AMLs through the NEPA process within HMAs when wild horses or burros are identified as a significant causal factor in not meeting land health standards, even if current AML is not being exceeded.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD WHB 5: In SFA and PHMA outside of SFA, monitor the effects of WHB use in relation to GRSG seasonal habitat objectives on an annual basis to help determine future management actions.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD WHB 6: Develop or amend herd management area plans (HMAPs) to incorporate GRSG habitat objectives and management considerations for all HMAs within GRSG habitat, with emphasis placed on SFA and other PHMA.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD WHB 7: Consider removals or exclusion of WHB during or immediately following emergency situations (such as fire, floods, and drought) to facilitate meeting GRSG habitat objectives where HMAs overlap with GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD WHB 8: When conducting NEPA analysis for wild horse/burro management activities, water developments, or other rangeland improvements for wild horses, address the direct and indirect effects on GRSG populations and habitat. Implement any water developments or rangeland improvements using the criteria identified for domestic livestock.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD WHB 9: Coordinate with professionals from other federal and state agencies, researchers at universities, and others to utilize and evaluate new management tools (e.g., population growth suppression, inventory techniques, and telemetry) for implementing the WHB program.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD WHB 10: When WHB are a factor in not meeting Greater Sage-grouse habitat objectives or influence declining Greater Sage-grouse populations in PHMA, Oregon's gather priority for consideration by the Washington Office is as follows: 1. Response to an emergency. (e.g., fire, insect infestation, disease or other events of unanticipated nature). 2. Greater Sage-grouse habitat. 3. Maintain a thriving natural ecological balance.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD WHB 11: In PHMA, design any new and modify existing structural WHB improvements to conserve, enhance, or restore Greater Sage-grouse habitat.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Mineral Resources (MR)	—	—
Objective	—	—
Leasable Minerals	—	—
Objective MR 1: Priority will be given to leasing and development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, outside of PHMA and GHMA. When analyzing leasing and authorizing development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, in PHMA and GHMA, and subject to applicable stipulations for the conservation of Greater Sage-grouse, priority will be given to development in non-habitat areas first and then in the least suitable habitat for Greater Sage-grouse. The implementation of these priorities will be subject to valid existing rights and any applicable law or regulation, including, but not limited to, 30 USC 226(p) and 43 CFR 3162.3-1(h).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Objective MR 2: Where a proposed fluid mineral development project on an existing lease could adversely affect GRSG populations or habitat, the BLM will work with the lessees, operators, or other project proponents to avoid, minimize, and provide compensatory mitigation to reduce adverse impacts on GRSG to the extent compatible with lessees' rights to drill and produce fluid mineral resources. The BLM will work with the lessee, operator, or project proponent in developing an Application for Permit to Drill (APD) or Geothermal Drilling Permit (GDP) on the lease to avoid and minimize impacts on GRSG or its habitat and will ensure that the best information about the GRSG and its habitat informs and helps to guide development of such Federal leases.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Management Direction	Management Direction	—
Unleased Fluid Minerals: MD MR 1: Stipulate all leases within PHMA as NSO. No waivers or modifications to a fluid mineral lease no-surface-occupancy stipulation will be granted. The authorized officer may grant an exception to a fluid mineral lease no-surface-occupancy stipulation only where the proposed action: i. Would not have direct, indirect, or cumulative effects on Greater Sage-grouse or its habitat; or ii. Is proposed to be undertaken as an alternative to a similar action occurring on a nearby parcel, and would provide a clear conservation gain to GRSG. Exceptions based on conservation gain (ii) may only be considered in (a) PHMA of mixed ownership where federal minerals underlie less than fifty percent of the total surface, or (b) areas of the public lands where the proposed exception is an alternative to an action occurring on a nearby parcel subject to a valid Federal fluid mineral lease existing as of the date of this RMP amendment. Exceptions based on conservation gain must also include measures, such as enforceable institutional controls and buffers, sufficient to allow the BLM to conclude that such benefits will endure for the duration of the proposed action's impacts. Any exceptions to this lease stipulation may be approved by the Authorized Officer only with the concurrence of the State Director. The Authorized Officer may not grant an exception unless the applicable state wildlife agency, the USFWS, and the BLM unanimously find that the proposed action satisfies (i) or (ii). Such finding shall initially be made by a team of one field biologist or other GRSG expert from each respective agency. In the event the initial finding is not unanimous, the finding may be elevated to the appropriate BLM State Director, USFWS State Ecological Services Director, and state wildlife agency head for final resolution. In the event their finding is not unanimous, the exception will not be granted. Approved exceptions will be made publicly available at least quarterly.	— No changes made.	— Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Oregon 2015 GRS G ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRS G ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD MR 2: Stipulate all leases within Sagebrush Focal Areas as NSO, without waiver, exception, or modification.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD MR 3: GHMA is considered open for unleased fluid minerals with moderate constraints, including CSU and TL. Areas within 1.0 mile of an occupied or pending lek within GHMA will be open to leasing fluid minerals subject to NSO stipulations. Apply Fluid Mineral Stipulations, identified in Appendix G.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD MR 4: Allow geophysical exploration within PHMA and GHMA subject to seasonal restrictions, see Appendix G.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
Leased Fluid Minerals:	—	—
MD MR 5: In PHMA, apply the conservation measures through RMP implementation decisions (e.g., approval of a Geothermal Drilling Permit (GDP)) and upon completion of the environmental record of review (43 CFR, Part 3162.5), including appropriate documentation of compliance with NEPA. In this process evaluate, among other things: 1. Whether the conservation measure is “reasonable” (43 CFR, Part 3101.1-2) with the valid existing rights. 2. Whether the action is in conformance with the approved RMP. Additionally, apply the 3 percent disturbance cap for development within Oregon PACs and PHMA (see Appendix E). Issue written orders of the authorized office requiring reasonable protective measures consistent with the lease terms where necessary to avoid or minimize impacts on Greater Sage-grouse populations and its habitat in accordance with the project habitat mitigation plan.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD MR 6: Implement RDFs in PHMA and GHMA as detailed in Appendix C, as allowed by law for existing leases.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD MR 7: Complete Master Leasing Plans in lieu of APD/GDP by APD/GDP or Operations/Utilization plans for fluid mineral lease development processing within PHMA.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD MR 8: Within an Oregon PAC, when permitting APDs or GDPs on existing leases that are not yet developed, the proposed anthropogenic disturbance must be under the 3 percent cap for that area, to the extent allowed by law.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD MR 9: Require unitization when the BLM determines it is necessary for proper development and operation of an area according to the Federal Lease Form, 3100-11 Sections 4 and 6. Where 10 percent or less of the land is federal, encourage rather than require unitization to minimize adverse impacts on Greater sage-grouse.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD MR 10: Identify areas where land acquisitions including mineral rights or conservation easements would benefit Greater Sage-grouse habitat. Proceed with acquisition process where appropriate.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Locatable Minerals:	—	—
MD MR 11: To the extent consistent with the rights of a mining claimant under existing laws and regulations, limit surface disturbance, and provide recommendations for net conservation gain of Greater Sage-grouse habitat.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD MR 12: If a 3809 Plan of Operation is filed on mining claims in PHMA or GHMA, identify and evaluate mitigation measures to avoid or minimize adverse effects on PHMA and GHMA, through the Plan of Operation NEPA process, as appropriate and to the extent allowable by law. For notice and casual use levels of activity, apply RDFs (to the extent consistent with applicable law) in Appendix C.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD MR 13: ~~Sagebrush Focal Areas are recommended for withdrawal from the General Mining Law of 1872, as amended, subject to valid existing rights.~~ Per Oregon maintenance action 3 of May 2018: The recommendation for withdrawal of Sagebrush Focal Areas was analyzed and removed. It was determined through an assessment process that the BLM proposal to withdraw 10 million acres was unreasonable in light of data that showed that current and 20 years of anticipated mining would affect less than 0.1 percent of occupied sage-grouse range."	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Salable Minerals:	—	—
MD MR 14: PHMA are closed to new mineral material sales. However, these areas remain “open” to free use permits and the expansion of existing active pits, only if the following criteria are met: • The activity is within the Oregon PAC (also called BSU, and is the same footprint as PHMA) and project area disturbance cap. • The activity is subject to the provisions set forth in the mitigation framework in Appendix F. • All applicable required design features are applied and the activity is permissible under screening criteria (see SSS 13). Federal Highway Act material sites are a ROW and not subject to mineral sale requirements. See ROW section for management (MD LR 7).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
MD MR 15: GHMA remains open subject to stipulations that will protect Greater Sage-grouse and its habitat; see RDFs and BMPs in Appendix C.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
Nonenergy Leasable Minerals:	—	—
MD MR 16: Close PHMA to new leases and permits. Consider expansion of existing operations if the disturbance is within the cap and subject to compensatory mitigation.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
MD MR 17: GHMA remains open to new leases subject to stipulations that would protect Greater Sage-grouse and its habitat; see RDFs and BMPs in Appendix C.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
Mineral Split Estate:	—	—
MD MR 18: Where the federal government owns the mineral estate in PHMA and GHMA, and the surface is in non-federal ownership, apply the same stipulations, COAs, and/or conservation measures and RDFs as applied if the mineral estate is developed on BLM-administered lands in that management area, to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities, and in coordination with the landowner.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD MR 19: Where the federal government owns the surface and the mineral estate is in non-federal ownership in PHMA and GHMA, apply appropriate surface use COAs, stipulations, and mineral RDFs through ROW grants or other surface management instruments, to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities, in coordination with the mineral estate owner/lessee.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Renewable Energy (Wind and Solar) (RE)	Renewable Energy (Wind and Solar) (RE)	—
Management Direction	Management Direction	—
MD RE 1: Designate PHMA as an exclusion area for new utility/commercial scale development of wind or solar ROWs, except in Lake, Harney, and Malheur Counties.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD RE 2: Designate PHMA outside of sagebrush focal areas (SFA) in Lake, Harney, and Malheur Counties as an avoidance area for new utility/commercial scale wind or solar ROWs. In Harney, Lake and Malheur counties, priority would be placed on locating commercial scale wind and solar energy development in non-habitat areas first (i.e., outside of PHMA and GHMA) before approving development in PHMA. Where an Oregon PAC (PHMA) occurs in more than one county, the allocation for each Oregon PAC is determined by the county in which it occurs. For example, the Cow Valley PAC is located in Malheur and Baker Counties; the Baker County portion would be exclusion, and the Malheur portion would be avoidance.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD RE 3: Designate Sagebrush Focal Areas as exclusion areas for new utility/commercial scale wind or solar ROWs development.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD RE 4: Designate GHMA as an avoidance area for new utility/commercial scale wind or solar rights-of-way. If new utility/commercial scale wind or solar development in GHMA is unavoidable apply the following measures: 1. If possible, construct meteorological towers without guy wires. 2. If guy wires are necessary, mark with anti-strike devices. 3. Analyze potential alternative site locations with known wind or solar potential outside of Greater Sage-grouse habitat in NEPA documents for ROW applications.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Lands and Realty (LR)	Lands and Realty (LR)	—
Objective	Objective	—
Objective LR 1: Effects of infrastructure projects, including siting, will be minimized using the best available science, updated as monitoring information on current infrastructure projects becomes available.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Management Direction	Management Direction	—
Utility Corridors and Communications Sites:	—	—
MD LR 1: All Lands and Realty actions shall comport with SSS 13 disturbance screening criteria.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD LR 2: Designated existing utility corridors will remain open in PHMA and GHMA to utility rights-of-way.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD LR 3: Designate other ROWs (including permits and leases) in PHMA as avoidance areas: Road ROWs: • New road ROWs will be authorized only when necessary for public safety, administrative access, or subject to valid existing rights. If the new ROW is necessary for public safety, administrative access, or subject to valid existing rights and creates new surface disturbance, mitigate the impacts on protect the Greater Sage-grouse or their habitat. New road ROWs will be allowed if the ROW applicant is pursuing a Title V FLPMA ROW grant and will create no new surface disturbance. • Only allow use of existing roads, or realignment of existing roads, when renewing or amending existing authorizations. • Co-locate new ROWs as close as technically possible to existing ROWs or where the ROW best minimize Greater Sage-grouse impacts. Use existing roads, or realignments, to access valid existing rights that are not yet developed. If valid existing rights cannot be accessed via existing roads, then construct any new road to the minimum standard necessary. • Existing Federal Highway Act (FHWA) appropriation ROWs are valid existing rights and new FHWA ROWs will continue to be considered subject to all disturbance screening criteria. See disturbance screening criteria in SSS I 3. New proposals for power lines, access roads, pump storage, and other hydroelectric facilities licensed by FERC will be subject to all Greater Sage-grouse ROW screening criteria. Communication Sites: Locate new communication towers within an existing communication site where technically feasible. If not feasible, new sites will be considered where necessary for public safety but shall adhere to the ROW disturbance screening criteria as listed in SSS I 3.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD LR 4: Renewing, Amending or Terminating ROW Grants in PHMA and GHMA: • Conduct rehabilitation when FLPMA ROW grant expires, is relinquished, or terminated, rehabilitation is required in compliance with 43 CFR, Part 2805.12(i). • Remove overhead lines and other infrastructure to eliminate existing avian predator nesting opportunities (e.g. remove power line and communication facilities no longer in service) when a ROW grant expires or is relinquished or terminated. • Add additional stipulations, if necessary, when renewal or amendment of existing ROW grants. Mitigate impacts on GRSG or their habitats during amendment of an existing ROW grant. Mitigation could include the disturbance screening criteria.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD LR 5: Designated ROW Corridors in PHMA and GHMA: • Manage existing designated ROW corridors as open. • Allow placement of new ROWs in existing designated corridors. Construct new ROWs as close as technically feasible to existing linear ROW infrastructure to limit disturbance to the smallest footprint. • Within existing designated utility corridors, the 3% disturbance cap may be exceeded at the project scale if the site specific NEPA analysis indicates that a net conservation gain to the species will be achieved. This exception is limited to projects which fulfill the use for which the corridors were designated (ex., transmission lines, pipelines) and the designated width of a corridor will not be exceeded as a result of any project co-location.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD LR 10: Consider the likelihood of development of not-yet-constructed surface-disturbing activities – as defined in Table 2 of the Monitoring Framework (Appendix D) – under valid existing rights prior to authorizing new projects in PHMA.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Land Use Authorizations: MD LR 6: Priority Habitat Management Areas (PHMA) and General Habitat Management Areas (GHMA) are designated as avoidance areas for high voltage (100kV or greater) transmission lines and major pipelines (24" or greater in diameter) ROWs (including permits and leases). All authorizations in these areas, other than the following identified projects, shall comply with the conservation measures outlined in this Approved Plan, including the RDFs (Appendix C) and screening criteria (see SSS I 3) of this document. The BLM is currently processing an application for Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project and the NEPA review for this project is well underway. Conservation measures for GRSG are being analyzed through the project's NEPA review process, which should achieve a net conservation benefit for the GRSG. Place new high voltage transmission lines in designated utility corridors where technically feasible; where not technically feasible, locate lines adjacent to existing infrastructure. If an existing transmission line is upgraded to a higher voltage the following is required: • The existing transmission line shall be removed within a reasonable amount of time after the new line is installed and energized. • The new line shall be constructed in the same alignment (ROW boundary) as the existing line unless an alternate route would benefit Greater Sage-grouse or its habitat. Outside of designated corridors, bury new transmission lines where technically and financially feasible. • Where burying transmission lines is not technically and financially feasible, locate new transmission lines adjacent to existing transmission lines, and would be subject to Greater Sage-grouse ROW screening criteria. • Where determined to have a negative impact on Greater Sage-grouse or its	— No changes made.	— Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
habitat, remove existing guy wires or mark with bird flight diverters to make them more visible to Greater Sage-grouse in flight. Outside of designated corridors, bury new pipelines where technically and financially feasible. Pipelines should be located adjacent to existing infrastructure.		
MD LR 7: GHMA is open to other ROWs/Land Use Authorization/Permits but must adhere to screening criteria in SSS 13. - Existing Federal Highway Act (FHWA) Appropriation ROWs are valid existing rights. New FHWA ROWs will be subject to all Greater Sage-grouse screening criteria. - Construct new high-voltage transmission lines and new pipelines in GHMA as close as technically feasible to existing infrastructure (e.g. roads, distribution/transmission lines and pipelines) to limit disturbance to the smallest footprint.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Land Tenure:	—	—
MD LR 8: Designate PHMA and GHMA as Z-I and retain public ownership. Lands classified as priority habitat and general habitat for Greater Sage-grouse will be retained in federal management. Exception: (1) the agency can demonstrate that disposal of the lands, including land exchanges, will provide a net conservation gain to the Greater Sage-grouse or (2) the agency can demonstrate that the disposal, including land exchanges, of the lands will have no direct or indirect adverse impact on conservation of the Greater Sage-grouse.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Withdrawals:	—	—
Per Oregon maintenance action 3 in May of 2018 MD LR 9 from the 2015 plan was deleted. (MD LR 9: Recommend SFAs for withdrawal from the General Mining Act of 1872, as amended; subject to valid existing rights.)	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Recreation and Visitor Services (REC)	Recreation and Visitor Services (REC)	—
Management Direction	Management Direction	—
MD REC 1: Do not issue new non-motorized special recreation permits (SRPs) in PHMA or GHMA within 3.0 miles of occupied or pending leks from March 1 to June 30. Limited exceptions (e.g. river permits) are allowed and shall be based on site-specific rationale that biological impacts on Greater Sage-grouse are being avoided. Evaluate and modify existing SRPs lacking Greater Sage-grouse stipulations in PHMA.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD REC 2: Do not issue motorized and/or race SRPs or competitive SRPs within 4.0 miles of occupied or pending leks during breeding season from March 1 to June 30.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD REC 3: Evaluate and modify, if necessary, recreation sites in PHMA and GHMA to reduce avian predator perch sites.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD REC 4: In PHMA, do not construct new recreation facilities (e.g., campgrounds, trails, trailheads, staging areas) unless the development will have a net conservation gain to GRSG habitat (such as concentrating recreation, diverting use away from important areas, etc.), or unless the development is required for visitor health and safety or resource protection.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD REC 5: Evaluate recreation SRMAs for consistency with the Adaptive Management Strategy (Appendix J). For existing SRMAs, recreation facilities or sites in all PHMA and GHMA, apply one or more of the following to get a neutral or positive response from Greater Sage-grouse populations using the adaptive management actions. Potential actions include, but are not limited to: - Seasonally close areas from March 1 to June 30 annually, and limit to existing roads, primitive roads, and trails, then designated routes upon completion of travel management plans. - Re-locate SRMAs in whole or in part, through land use plan amendments, in order to reduce negative effects on GRSG.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD REC 6: Promote and encourage education and outreach regarding Greater Sage-grouse at kiosks and other public education sites. Promote, publish and engage public regarding the American Birding Association Principles of Birding Ethics.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Travel and Transportation (TTM)	Travel and Transportation (TTM)	—
Objective	Objective	—
Objective TTM 1: Manage OHV/ORV designations (open, limited, and closed) to conserve Greater Sage-grouse habitat and populations by taking actions that create neutral or positive responses.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Objective TTM 2: Reduce disturbance to Greater Sage-grouse by evaluating or modifying OHV/ORV designations and route selection in accordance with minimization criteria.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Management Direction	Management Direction	—
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. Travel management planning will be deferred to future implementation/activity level planning or concurrent with future RMP planning. In addition to the minimization criteria, districts will adopt the following Greater Sage-grouse specific planning elements only for BLM administered roads during implementation level planning. • During travel management planning, avoid designating roads, primitive roads, and motorized trails within 1.0 mile of occupied or pending leks when road traffic volume is greater than 8 vehicle trips per 24 hour period in accordance with the ODFW mitigation framework. • When existing high traffic roads and primitive roads are closer than 1.0 mile to an occupied or pending lek, and are the only access, consider a seasonal restriction from March 1 to June 30. • When an existing road or primitive road is found to have an effect on Greater	No changes made.	No change proposed.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Sage-grouse population trends, work with the interdisciplinary team and ODFW to determine the best reroute or closure point for a section of an existing road. In addition, implementation level travel planning efforts will be guided by the goals, objectives and guidelines outlined in the SSS section, relevant National and Oregon specific guidance, and the following: • A timeline to complete travel planning efforts will be identified, prioritized and updated annually in all relevant planning areas to accelerate the accomplishment of: data collection, route evaluation and selection, and on the ground implementation efforts including signing, monitoring and rehabilitation. • During subsequent travel management planning, consultation “with interested user groups, Federal, State, county and local agencies, local landowners, and other parties in a manner that provides an opportunity for the public to express itself and have its views given consideration.” Consequently, a public outreach plan to fully engage all interested stakeholders will be incorporated into future travel management plans. • Among other designation criteria from “areas and trails shall be located to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant disruption of wildlife habitats. Special attention would be given to protect endangered or threatened species and their habitats.” • During subsequent travel management planning, all routes will undergo a route evaluation to determine its purpose and need and the potential resource and/or user conflicts from motorized travel. Where resource and/or user conflicts outweigh the purpose and need for the route, the route will be considered for closure or considered for relocation outside of sensitive GRSG habitat. • During subsequent travel planning, threats to GRSG and their habitat will be considered when evaluating route designations and/or closures.	(See above.)	(See above.)

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
• During subsequent travel management planning, routes that do not have a purpose or need would be considered for closure. • During subsequent travel management planning, routes that are duplicative, parallel, or redundant will be considered for closure. • During subsequent travel management planning, seasonal restrictions on OHV use will be considered in important seasonal habitats where OHV use is a threat. During subsequent travel management planning, consider limiting over snow vehicles (OSV) designed for use over snow and that runs on a track or tracks and/or a ski or skis, while in use over snow to designated routes or consider seasonal closures in GRSG wintering areas from November 1 through March 31. • During subsequent travel management planning, routes not required for public access or recreation with a current administrative/agency purpose or need will be evaluated for administrative access only. • During subsequent travel management planning, consider prioritizing restoration of routes not designated in a Travel Management Plan. • During subsequent travel management plan implementation, consider using seed mixes or transplant techniques that will maintain or enhance GRSG habitat when rehabilitating linear disturbances. During subsequent travel management plan implementation, consider scheduling road maintenance to avoid disturbance during sensitive periods and times to the extent practicable. Consider using time of day limits (exclude activities from 2 hours before sunset to 2 hours after sunrise) to reduce impacts on GRSG during breeding periods.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD TTM 2: ORV-OHV designations that are “closed” will be maintained as closed to motorized vehicles. OHV Areas designated as “limited to existing” within PHMA and GHMA will be managed as “limited to existing roads, primitive roads, and trails” until the completion of an implementation level travel planning (travel management planning). Individual route designations will occur during subsequent implementation level travel management planning efforts. Upon the completion of implementation level travel management plans OHV areas designated as “Limited” will transition to “limited to designated roads, primitive roads and trails.”	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD TTM 3: Avoid upgrading existing roads or construction of new roads that are found to contribute to Greater Sage-grouse mortality or lek abandonment.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD TTM 4: In PHMA and GHMA complete transportation plans in accordance with National BLM Travel Management guidance, requiring the BLM to maintain a current action plan and planning schedule to most effectively target available resources. The following GRSG population areas are Oregon’s top priority areas to designate comprehensive travel management plans: 1. In Oregon PACs with declining population trends. 2. In all other Oregon PACs. 3. In all GHMA. In PHMA and GHMA, travel systems will be managed with an emphasis on improving the sustainability of the travel network in a comprehensive manner to minimize impacts on GRSG, maintain motorist safety, and prevent unauthorized cross country travel while meeting access needs. To do so, it may be necessary to improve portions of existing routes, close existing routes or create new routes that meet user group needs, thereby reducing the potential for pioneering unauthorized routes. The emphasis of the comprehensive travel and transportation planning will be placed on having a neutral or positive effect on GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD TTM 5: Initiate travel management planning within 5 years of RMP revisions.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD TTM 6: In PHMA and GHMA, limit route construction or realignment of existing designated routes to result in net conservation gain for PHMA and GHMA.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD TTM 7: Eliminate parallel roads travelling to the same destination when the destination can be accessed from the same direction and topography in PHMA and GHMA.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD TTM 8: Within 4.0 miles of occupied or pending leks, do not allow any upgrading of primitive roads that would change the maintenance level except for public safety, administrative use, and valid existing rights.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD TTM 9: Use proactive methods when necessary to reclaim roads. See BMPs in Appendix C.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MD TTM 10: In PHMA and GHMA, temporary closures will be considered in accordance with 43 CFR, Part 8364 (Closures and Restrictions); 43 CFR, Part 8351 (Designated National Area); 43 CFR, Part 6302 (Use of Wilderness Areas, Prohibited Acts, and Penalties); 43 CFR, Part 8341 (Conditions of Use). Temporary closure or restriction orders under these authorities are enacted at the discretion of the authorized officer to resolve management conflicts and protect persons, property, and public lands and resources. Where an authorized officer determines that off-highway vehicles are causing or will cause considerable adverse effects upon soil, vegetation, wildlife, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, historical resources, threatened or endangered species, wilderness suitability, other authorized uses, or other resources, the affected areas shall be immediately closed to the type(s) of vehicle causing the adverse effect until the adverse effects are eliminated and measures implemented to prevent recurrence. (43 CFR, Part 8341.2) A closure or restriction order shall be considered only after other management strategies and alternatives have been explored. The duration of temporary closure or restriction orders shall be limited to 24 months or less; however, certain situations may require longer closures and/or iterative temporary closures. This may include closure of routes or areas.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Special Designations - Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (SD)	Special Designations - Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (SD)	—
Objective	Objective	—
Objective SD 1: Provide for Conservation of Greater Sage-grouse within Key Existing Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) (Table 2-6) and Research Natural Areas (RNAs).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 5.
Objective SD 2: Manage all ACECs and RNAs for the values for which they were designated, per district resource management plans, following existing management actions, and consistent with proposed actions for PHMA and GHMA.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 5.

Oregon 2015 GRSG ARMPA (as published text)	Oregon 2019 GRSG ARMPA (as published)	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Objective SD 3: Manage habitat maintenance and restoration, and conservation actions in key ACECs for Greater Sage-grouse consistent with the values the areas were designated.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
Objective SD 4: Manage key RNAs, or large areas within the RNAs, as undisturbed baseline reference areas for the sagebrush plant communities they represent that are important for Greater Sage-grouse. Manage key RNAs for minimum human disturbance allowing natural succession to proceed.	Objective SD 4: Manage the Foster Flat and Guano Creek–Sink Lakes RNAs as undisturbed baseline reference areas for the sagebrush plant communities they represent that are important for Greater Sage Grouse. Minimize human disturbance in all 15 key RNAs, allowing natural ecological processes to proceed.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.

Table 2: Oregon Plan Maintenance Actions

Plan Maintenance – Not a Management Direction, Objective or Goal	Plan Maintenance – Not a Management Direction, Objective or Goal	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Maintenance Actions	Maintenance Actions	—
Table 1-6: Key Components of the Oregon GRSG ARMPA Addressing COT Report Threats: SFA - Open to mineral entry and location. (per Maintenance Action 3)	No change made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
Table 2-1. Summary of Allocation Decisions by GRSG Habitat Management Areas. Locatable Minerals: SFA = Open (per Maintenance Action 3)	No change made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
Appendix A: Map 2-13 (per Maintenance Action 1 – Map included after tables below)	No change made.	No change proposed.

Note for **Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6** below: Text did not change between 2015 ARMPA and 2019 RMPA.

Table 3. Habitat Objectives for Greater Sage-grouse

Attribute	Indicators	Desired Condition (Habitat Objectives)	Reference
Breeding Including Lekking, Pre-nesting, Nesting, and Early Brood Rearing (Seasonal Use Period March 1 – June 30)			
Lek Security	Proximity of trees or other tall structures	No conifers or tall structures within 1.0 mile of lek center, and conifer cover less than 5% within 4.0 miles of lek, excluding old trees, culturally significant, actively used by special status species, and old growth juniper stands.	Connelly et al. 2000; Fresse 2009; Baruch-Mordo et al. 2013; Knick et al. 2013
	Proximity of sagebrush to leks	Lek has adjacent sagebrush cover	Connelly et al. 2000
Cover	Sagebrush cover (%)	10 to 25	Doescher et al. 1986; Gregg et al. 1994; Hanf et al. 1994; Coggins 1998; Crawford and Carver 2000; Bates and Davies 2014; BLM 2016
—	Sagebrush height (inches) Arid sites (warm-dry) Mesic sites (cool-moist)	11 to 31 15 to 31	Gregg et al. 1994; Hanf et al. 1994; Coggins 1998; Crawford and Carver 2000; Freese 2009.
—	Predominant sagebrush shape	Spreading	Connelly et al. 2000
—	Perennial grass cover (such as bunchgrass) (%)	10 to 30	Gregg et al. 1994; Coggins 1998; Crawford and Carver 2000; Freese 2009; NRCS 2015; Bates and Davies 2014; Jon Bates, USDA ARS, pers.comm. 2/10/2015; BLM 2016; BLM 2015b
	Arid sagebrush	10 to 25	
	Warm-dry	—	
	Shallow-dry	20 to 45	
	Mesic sagebrush	20 to 50	
	Cool-moist		
	Warm-moist		
—	Perennial grass and forb height (inches, including residual grasses) – most important and appropriately measured in nest areas; excludes shallow-dry sites ¹	≥ 7	Gregg et al. 1994; Hanf et al. 1994; Crawford and Carver 2000; Hagen et al. 2007; Jon Bates, USDA ARS, pers. comm. 2/10/2015
	Arid sites (warm-dry)	≥ 9	
	Mesic sites (cool-moist)		
—	Perennial forb cover (%) ²		Drut 1992; Drut et al. 1994; Crawford and Carver 2000; Freese 2009; NRCS 2015; Bates and Davies 2014; BLM 2016; Jon Bates, USDA ARS, pers.comm. 2/10/2015; BLM 2015b
	Arid sagebrush	2 to 10	
	Warm-dry	2 to 10	
	Shallow-dry	6 to 12	
	Mesic sagebrush	5 to 15	
	Cool-moist		
	Warm-moist		

Attribute	Indicators	Desired Condition (Habitat Objectives)	Reference
Food	Preferred forb diversity and availability	Preferred forbs are common with 5 to 10 species present ²	Hanf et al. 1994; Crawford and Carver 2000; Freese 2009; Bates and Davies 2014; BLM 2016; Jon Bates, USDA ARS, pers.comm. 2/10/2015
Available Suitable Habitat (Landscape Context)	% of seasonal habitat within 4.0 miles of leks meeting a majority of the desired conditions Arid sagebrush Mesic sagebrush	70 (55-85) 75 (60-90)	Connelly et al. 2000; Karl and Sadowski 2005; Evers 2010; Hagen 2011; NRCS 2015
Brood-rearing/Summer Including Late-brood Rearing, Summering, and Early Autumn (Seasonal Use Period July 1- October 31)			
Cover	Sagebrush cover (%)	10 to 25	Doescher et al. 1986; Drut et al. 1994; Connelly et al. 2000; Crawford and Carver 2000; Bates and Davies 2014; Jon Bates, USDA ARS, pers.comm. 2/10/2015
—	Sagebrush height (inches)	15 to 31	Gregg et al. 1994; Hanf et al. 1994; Crawford and Carver 2000; Freese 2009
—	Perennial herbaceous (grass and forbs) cover (%)	—	Drut et al. 1994; Bates and
	Arid sagebrush	—	Davies 2014; NRCS 2015;
	Warm-dry	15 to 30	BLM 2015b; Jon Bates, USDA ARS, pers.comm.
	Shallow-dry	10 to 25	2/10/2015
	Mesic sagebrush	—	
	Cool-moist	20 to 45	
	Warm-moist	30 to 55	
	Riparian ³	≥ 50	
—	Riparian areas/mesic meadows	Majority of areas are in PFC	Stiver et al. 2010, or as updated
Food	Upland and riparian perennial forb availability	Preferred forbs are common with 5 to 10 species present ⁴	Hanf et al. 1994; Freese 2009; Bates and Davies 2014; BLM 2015b; Jon Bates, USDA ARS, pers.comm. 2/10/2015
Available Suitable Habitat (Landscape Context)	% of seasonal habitat within 4.0 miles of leks meeting a majority of the desired conditions Arid sagebrush Mesic sagebrush	70 (55-85) 75 (60-90)	Connelly et al. 2000; Karl and Sadowski 2005; Evers 2010; Hagen 2011; NRCS 2015

Attribute	Indicators	Desired Condition (Habitat Objectives)	Reference
Winter Including Late Autumn and Winter (Seasonal Use Period November 1 – February 28)			
Cover and Food	Sagebrush cover above snow (%)	≥ 10	Willis 1990 (in Hagen 2011); Bruce 2011
	Sagebrush height above snow (inches)	≥ 10	Willis 1990 (in Hagen 2011); Bruce 2011
Available Suitable Habitat (Landscape Context)	% of wintering habitat meeting a majority of the desired conditions Arid sagebrush Mesic sagebrush	70 (55-85) 85 (68-100)	Connelly et al. 2000; Karl and Sadowski 2005; Evers 2010; NRCS 2015

¹Perennial grass and forb minimum height may not be achievable in years with below normal precipitation. Other indicators of desired condition may still render the site suitable, however.

²In very dry years, forb cover and availability may not be at the desired condition, and in certain plant associations such as Wyoming big sagebrush/Needle and Thread, these indicators may rarely be achieved even in years with normal precipitation.

³Riparian includes swales, wet meadows, and intermittent/ephemeral streams.

⁴Sage-grouse preferred forbs are listed in Appendix I.

Table 4. Greater Sage-Grouse Buffers

Resource Program	Activity	Temporal Buffer	Spatial Buffer Miles from Lek	
			PHMA	GHMA
Vegetation - Habitat Restoration MD Veg 3	Sagebrush cutting or removal	Nesting and early brood-rearing (March 1 through June 30)	4	4
Vegetation - Habitat Restoration MD Veg 4	Juniper cutting	Breeding season (March 1 through June 30) - two hours before and after sunrise and sunset.	4	4
Vegetation - Habitat Restoration MD Veg 5	Vegetation management activities that are timing- sensitive for maximum effectiveness	No more than 5 days during the breeding and early brood-rearing period (Mar 1 – June 30; use local information to further refine this period)	4	4
Livestock Grazing and Range Management MD LG 9	Reduce collision risk through fence removal, modification, or marking in areas with "high" collision risk	NA	1.2	1.2
Livestock Grazing and Range Management MD LG 10	Livestock facilities and placement of livestock supplements	NA	1.2	1.2

Resource Program	Activity	Temporal Buffer	Spatial Buffer Miles from Lek	
			PHMA	GHMA
Special Status Species MD SSS 13	Infrastructure: New anthropogenic disturbance	NA	1	1
Leasable Minerals – Unleased Federal Fluid Mineral Estate (MLS) MD MR 3	Fluid minerals development in GHMA	NA	NA	1
Recreation MD REC 1	New non-motorized SRPs	Breeding season (March 1 to June 30)	3	3
Recreation MD REC2	Motorized and/or race SRPs, or competitive SRPs	Breeding season (March 1 to June 30)	4	4
Travel Management MD TM 8	Upgrading primitive roads	NA	4	4

Table 5. Desired Mix of Sagebrush Classes by Sagebrush Type

Sagebrush Type	General Description	Characteristic Plant Community	Class 1(A)²	Class 2(A)²	Class 3 (A, B)²	Class 4 (A, B)²	Class 5(A)²
Shallow-Dry	Very shallow soils and very dry sites not capable of producing at least 600 lb/ac of grass on any sites or in any type of year ¹ .	Low sagebrush/Sandberg's bluegrass. Includes the driest Wyoming big sagebrush types.	15% (0-25%)	15% (0-25%)	70% (50-90%)	N/A ³	N/A ³
Warm-Dry	Shallow to moderately deep soils and dry sites capable of producing at least 600 lb/ac of grass only on best sites or wet years ¹ .	Wyoming big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass-Thurber's needlegrass. Includes some moderately productive low sagebrush sites and dry mountain big sagebrush sites.	15% (0-25%)	15% (0-25%)	25% (10-40%)	45% (25-70%)	N/A ³
Cool-Moist	Moderately deep to deep soils and moist sites capable of producing at least 600 lb/ac of grass on average and high productivity sites or average and wet years ¹ .	Mountain big sagebrush-Idaho fescue. Includes productive low sagebrush communities and highly productive Wyoming big sagebrush sites. May include antelope bitterbrush as a co-dominant with big sagebrush.	15% (0-25%)	15% (0-25%)	20% (10-30%)	35% (20-60%)	15% (5-25%)

¹Based on Ecological Site Descriptions²Median value and range³Site not capable of producing this class**Table 5. Decadal Treatment Objectives for Greater Sage-grouse Habitat**

Treatment Objective	Average Annual Acres	Average Decadal Acres
Conifer reduction	40,250	402,500
Sagebrush thinning	53,217	532,170
Invasive plant control*	12,700	127,000
Crested wheatgrass restoration	1,844	18,440

*Primarily annual grasses

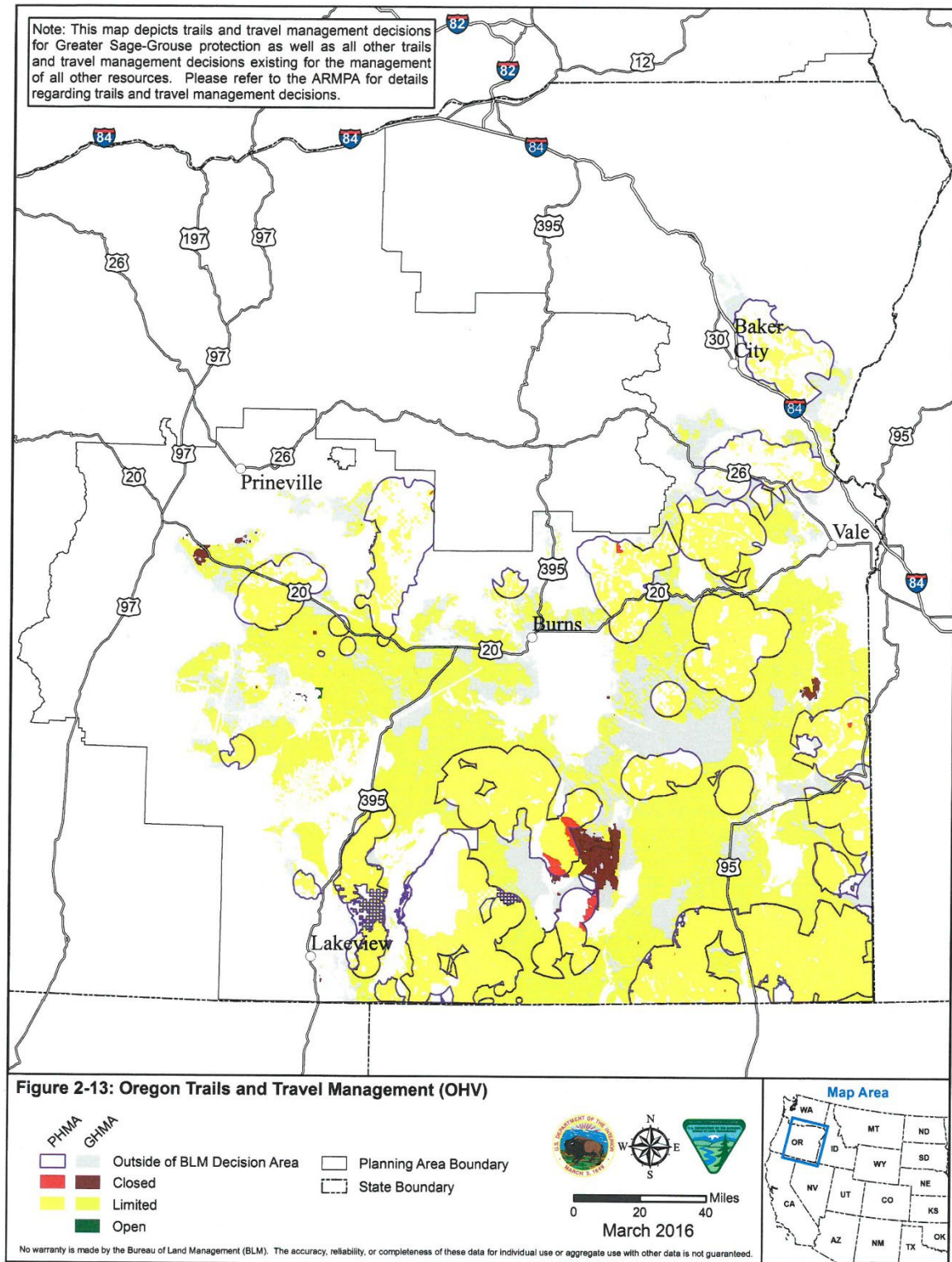
These acreage estimates represent an objective for treatment over a ten-year (decadal) period to support achievement or progress toward GRSG habitat objectives. These estimates account for variability in funding and do not reflect a maximum or minimum acreage for any one treatment objective should funding and site-specific conditions allow for more or less treatment acreage than described in order to meet habitat objectives.

Table 6. From 2015 ARMPA - Key ACECs and RNAs for ARMPA

ACEC/RNA Name	Type	District	ACEC/RNA		
			ACEC/RNA Acres	RNA Acres Unavailable to Grazing	Estimated Reduction of AUMs
Abert Rim	ACEC	Lakeview	18,039	0	0
High Lakes	ACEC	Lakeview	38,952	0	0
Red Knoll	ACEC	Lakeview	11,119	0	0
TOTAL KEY ACEC	—	—	68,110	0	0
Black Canyon	RNA	Vale	2,639	2,640	225
Dry Creek Bench	RNA	Vale	1,637	622	101
East Fork Trout Creek	RNA	Burns	361	304	47
Fish Creek Rim	RNA	Lakeview	8,718	2,750	110
Foley Lake	RNA	Lakeview	2,228	1,269	51
Foster Flat *	RNA	Burns	2,687	0	0
Guano Creek—Sink Lakes *	RNA	Lakeview	11,185	0	0
Lake Ridge	RNA	Vale	3,860	769	229
Mahogany Ridge	RNA	Vale	682	155	22
North Ridge Bully Creek	RNA	Vale	1,569	164	46
Rahilly-Gravelly	RNA	Lakeview	18,678	8,282	630
South Bull Canyon	RNA	Vale	790	747	89
South Ridge Bully Creek	RNA	Vale	621	397	166
Spring Mountain	RNA	Vale	996	995	137
Toppin Creek Butte	RNA	Vale	3,998	2,865	504
TOTAL KEY RNA	—	—	60,652	21,957	2,388

(NOTE: The 2019 FEIS and RMPA showed 21,959 acres in 13 key RNAs (corrected math error in the 2015 ARMPA))

Appendix A: Map 2-13 (from Maintenance Action I)



2.13.2 Relevant Appendices

The following table shows which appendices from the 2015 and 2019 have management direction that may change through this RMP amendment. Note that if 2019 is not listed in the year, then no change was made to the appendix between the 2015 and 2019 plans. The appendices can be found on [the Oregon GRSG ePlanning website](#).

ARMPA Appendix Name	Year	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
A: Approved RMP Amendment Maps	2015	Yes
B: Lek Buffer Distances	2015	No
C: Required Design Features and Best Management Practices	2015	Yes
D: Greater Sage-Grouse Monitoring Framework	2015	No
E: Disturbance Cap Calculation Method	2015	Yes
F: Mitigation	2015	Yes
G: Fluid Mineral Leasing Stipulations	2015	Yes
H: Fire and Invasives Assessment Tool	2015	No
I: Sage-grouse Plant List	2015	No
J: Adaptive Management Strategy	2015	Yes
K: Biological Assessment Summary	2015	No
L: Greater Sage-Grouse Noise Protocol	2015	No
A: Additional RNA Information	2019	No
B: Cumulative Effects Supporting Information	2019	No
C: Responses to Substantive Public Comments on the Draft EIS	2019	No

Appendix 2.14

South Dakota RMP Amendment

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2.14 SOUTH DAKOTA RMP AMENDMENT

This appendix presents the GRSG approved RMP amendment language from the 2015 record of decision for the South Dakota RMP Amendment. The South Dakota RMP was not amended in 2019. The table below notes which goals, objectives, appendices, and management decisions/actions have a potential to change as a result of the current planning effort and if so, under which alternatives changes are being considered. Note that any references to tables and appendices are to those applicable 2015 appendices that are listed in **Section 2.14.2** of this appendix.

2.14.1 Existing GRSG RMP Management – South Dakota RMP Amendment

Table 1. Summary of Goals, Objectives, and Management Actions in South Dakota 2015 ARMP

South Dakota RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions: Vegetation Communities	
Goal: In all PHMA, the desired condition is to maintain all lands ecologically capable of producing sagebrush (but no less than 70%) with a minimum of 15% sagebrush canopy cover or as consistent with specific ecological site conditions. The attributes necessary to sustain these habitats are described in Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health (BLM Tech Ref 1734-6).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD-28 Weed Treatments: TL: Spot weed treatments only, using IPM methods within all suitable nesting or brood rearing habitat of known sage-grouse leks from March 1-June 30.	No change proposed.
MD-19 Weed Treatments: Timing Limit (TL): Herbicide treatments limited to spot weed treatments only within a 3 mile buffer zone, of known sage-grouse leks from March 1-June 30. Exceptions to treatment types and dates of treatments may be allowed to address aggressively spreading weeds or invasive plants that require aggressive and timely treatment during this period following consultation with necessary specialists to minimize impacts on sage-grouse.	No change proposed.
MD-31 Seasonal Habitat Objectives: Seasonal habitat objectives identified in Table 2-5 will be incorporated into all project designs, as appropriate, based on site conditions and ecological potential. Habitat objectives include metrics for sagebrush height, cover, and other vegetation characteristics typical of sage-grouse habitat at the eastern edge of the species' distribution.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Decisions: Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Resources	
Goal SSS-1: Maintain and/or increase GRSG abundance and distribution by conserving, enhancing, or restoring the sagebrush ecosystem upon which populations depend, in cooperation with other conservation partners.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Goal: Within GRSG habitat areas, the BLM will maintain habitat for viable GRSG populations.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

South Dakota RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Goal: Provide suitable habitat condition to allow for movement between large blocks of habitat and seasonal and specialized habitats on a local and landscape scale.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Goal: Across the planning area, maintain greater sagebrush cover at levels at or near the full potential for the each ecological site.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD-21 Greater Sage-Grouse PHMA: PHMA will be the same as the State of South Dakota Sage-grouse Core Areas (SDGFP 2014); which includes 127,735 surface and 412,822 subsurface oil and gas minerals acres. See Figure 1-2 and 1-3. Adaptive management for sage-grouse is described in Chapter 2 Narrative section under Greater Sage-Grouse. BLM will apply the lek buffer-distances in the USGS Report “Conservation Buffer Distance Estimates for Greater Sage-Grouse-A Review (Open File Report 2014-1239)” in both GHMA and PHMA as detailed in Appendix B, Applying Lek Buffer-Distances When Approving Actions.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD-10 Greater Sage-Grouse GHMA: includes 23,684 surface and 247,771 subsurface oil and gas minerals acres.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Monitoring Framework for Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management The BLM’s planning regulations, specifically 43 CFR, Part 1610.4-9, require that land use plans establish intervals and standards for monitoring based on the sensitivity of the resource decisions. Land use plan monitoring is the process of tracking the implementation of land use plan decisions (implementation monitoring) and collecting data/information necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of land use plan decisions (effectiveness monitoring). For GRSG, these types of monitoring are also described in the criteria found in the Policy for Evaluation of Conservation Efforts When Making Listing Decisions (50 CFR Vol. 68, No. 60). One of the Policy for Evaluation of Conservation Efforts When Making Listing Decisions criteria evaluates whether provisions for monitoring and reporting progress on implementation (based on compliance with the implementation schedule) and effectiveness (based on evaluation of quantifiable parameters) of the conservation effort are provided. The Monitoring Framework is located in Appendix D.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Habitat Objectives	
[Original language updated through plan maintenance action in 2018] The habitat objectives for GRSG (Table 2.3-2) is a list of indicators, characteristics, and values that describe GRSG seasonal habitat use areas. The BLM used indicator values derived from a synthesis of local and regional GRSG habitat research and data to describe the typical vegetation communities that sage-grouse select. While the habitat objectives are not attainable on every site or every acre within designated GRSG habitat management areas,	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

South Dakota RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
the values reflect a range of habitat conditions that generally lead to greater survival of individuals within a population. When permitting land use activities, BLM should consider the ecological site potential within designated habitat management areas to validate the habitat conditions achievable for a specific site. The seasonal habitat descriptions in Table 2.3-2 vary across the range of sage-grouse, within a subregion, and between sites. They are not land health standards but are quantitative measures that inform the Special Status Species Habitat Land Health Standard for sage-grouse. These measurable values reflect ecological potential, and may be adjusted based on local factors influencing sage-grouse habitat selection. Local data or recent science may indicate that sage-grouse select for vegetation structure and composition in seasonal habitats not characterized by the values in the habitat objectives table. In these cases, it may be appropriate to adjust the values. Habitat objectives should be evaluated in the context of annual variability in ecological conditions and should not be used singly to determine habitat suitability for sage-grouse. They may be used to demonstrate trends over time, during plan evaluations for effectiveness of sage-grouse conservation, or when identify limiting habitat characteristics for a given area. The indicators, characteristics, values and desired seasonal habitat conditions in the GRSG Plan Habitat Objectives Table are meant to inform the wildlife habitat component of the Land Health Standards evaluation process (LHS, 43 CFR 4180.2), but do not replace rangeland health assessments. Results from the LHS evaluation should be used to support BLM in land use authorization processes and during development of objectives for management actions such as vegetation treatments. BLM land use authorizations will contain terms and conditions regarding the actions needed to achieve or make progress toward achieving habitat objectives and land health standards. The Habitat Objectives Tables are to be used: • To assess habitat suitability for sage-grouse following the BLM policy on sage-grouse habitat assessments • To evaluate land use plan effectiveness for sage-grouse conservation, and • As a basis to develop measurable project objectives for actions in BLM-designated GRSG Habitat Management areas when considered alongside land health standards, ecological potential and local information. References: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. 2001. Rangeland health standards handbook H-4180-1. https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/uploads/Media_Library_BLM_Policy_h4180-1.pdf	(See above.)

South Dakota RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions: Disturbance	
Goal: Manage PHMA so that discrete anthropogenic (human-caused) disturbances do not adversely impact GRSG distribution or abundance.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD-20 Greater Sage-Grouse PHMA: Manage PHMA so that discrete anthropogenic (human-caused) disturbances do not adversely impact GRSG distribution or abundance.	No change proposed.
MD-24 Other Resources Uses: Other resource uses within PHMA may be allowed pending project level environmental review provided that Mitigation, BMPs Guidelines, standard operating procedures (SOP), and RDFs are implemented, Impacts are evaluated as described in the GRSG Effects Analysis Process (Appendix I) and the project does not exceed the disturbance cap (Appendix E) and the goals for sage-grouse and sage-grouse habitat are not compromised. Categorical Exclusions (CXs) including those under the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Section 390 will not be used in priority sage-grouse habitats due to resource conflicts.	No change proposed.
Management Direction SSS-1.3: If the 3% anthropogenic disturbance cap is exceeded on lands (regardless of land ownership) or if anthropogenic disturbance and habitat loss associated with conversion to agricultural tillage or fire exceed 5% within a project analysis area in PHMA, then no further discrete anthropogenic disturbances (subject to applicable laws and regulations, such as the 1872 Mining Law, valid existing rights, etc.) will be permitted by BLM within PHMA in a project analysis area until the disturbance has been reduced to less than the cap.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

South Dakota RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD-22 (part) Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities and Fluid Minerals: Surface disturbing and disruptive activities may be allowed if the project proponent can clearly demonstrate that adverse impacts on sage-grouse can be adequately mitigated through BMPs, guidelines (Appendix J), disturbance is within the 3% disturbance cap limit (Appendix E) and RDFs (Appendix C) are included and the goals for sage-grouse not compromised. If the 3% anthropogenic disturbance cap is exceeded on lands (regardless of land ownership) within GRSG PHMA in any given BSU, then no further discrete anthropogenic disturbances (subject to applicable laws and regulations, such as the 1872 hard rock mining law, valid existing rights, etc.) will be permitted by BLM within PHMA in any given BSU until the disturbance has been reduced to less than the cap. If the 3% anthropogenic disturbance cap is exceeded on lands (regardless of land ownership) or if anthropogenic disturbance and habitat loss associated with conversion to agricultural tillage or fire exceed 5% within a project analysis area in PHMA, then no further discrete anthropogenic disturbances (subject to applicable laws and regulations, such as the 1872 Mining Law, valid existing rights, etc.) will be permitted by BLM within PHMA in a project analysis area until the disturbance has been reduced to less than the cap. Within existing designated utility corridors, the 3% disturbance cap may be exceeded at the project scale if the site specific NEPA analysis indicates that a net conservation gain to the species will be achieved. This exception is limited to projects which fulfill the use for which the corridors were designated (ex., transmission lines, pipelines) and the designated width of a corridor will not be exceeded as a result of any project co-location.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

South Dakota RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD-22 (part) Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities and Fluid Minerals: Subject to applicable laws and regulations and valid existing rights, if the average density of one energy and mining facility per 640 acres (the density cap) is exceeded on all lands (regardless of land ownership) in PHMA within a proposed project analysis area, then no further disturbance from energy or mining facilities will be permitted by BLM: (1) until disturbance in the proposed project analysis area has been reduced to maintain the limit under the cap; or (2) unless the energy or mining facility is co-located into an existing disturbed area. This direction applies to the following: oil and gas wells and development facilities, coal mines, wind towers, solar fields, geothermal, and mining (active locatable, leasable, and saleable developments). Appendix E provides specific details about how calculations are determined for disturbance caps. Prior to approving any surface disturbance and disruptive activities, the project proponent will be required to provide a plan approved by BLM to maintain suitability of habitat and avoid or minimize habitat loss and disturbance.	No change proposed.

South Dakota RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Mitigation for Sage-Grouse Management Consistent with the Plan’s goal, the intent of the South Dakota ARMP is to provide a net conservation gain to the species. In all sage-grouse habitat, in undertaking BLM management actions, and, consistent with valid existing rights and applicable law, in authorizing third-party actions that result in sage-grouse habitat loss and degradation, the BLM will require and ensure mitigation that provides a net conservation gain to the species, including accounting for any uncertainty associated with the effectiveness of such mitigation. This will be achieved by avoiding, minimizing, and compensating for impacts by applying beneficial mitigation actions. Actions that result in habitat loss and degradation including those identified as threats which contribute to Greater Sage-Grouse disturbance as identified by the USFWS in its 2010 listing decision (75 FR 13910) and shown in Table 2 in the attached Monitoring Framework (Appendix D). This is also consistent with BLM Manual 6840 – Special Status Species Management, Section .02B, which directs BLM “to initiate proactive conservation measures that reduce or eliminate threats to Bureau sensitive species to minimize the likelihood of the need for listing of these species under the ESA.” Mitigation Standards. In undertaking BLM management actions, and, consistent with valid existing rights and applicable law, in authorizing-third party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation, the BLM will require and ensure mitigation that provides a net conservation gain to the species, including accounting for any uncertainty associated with the effectiveness of such mitigation. This will be achieved by avoiding, minimizing, and compensating for impacts by applying beneficial mitigation actions. Mitigation will follow the regulations from the CEQ (40 CFR, Part 1508.20; e.g., avoid, minimize, and compensate), hereafter referred to as the mitigation hierarchy. If impacts from BLM management actions and authorized third-party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation remain after applying avoidance and minimization measures (i.e., residual impacts), then compensatory mitigation projects will be used to provide a net conservation gain to the species. Any compensatory mitigation will be durable, timely, and in addition to that which would have resulted without the compensatory mitigation.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

South Dakota RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Team. The BLM will establish a WAFWA Management Zone Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Team (hereafter, Team) to help guide the conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse, within 90 days of the issuance of the ROD. This Team will develop a WAFWA Management Zone Regional Mitigation Strategy (hereafter, Regional Mitigation Strategy). The Team will also compile and report on monitoring data (including data on habitat condition, population trends, and mitigation effectiveness) from States across the WAFWA Management Zone (see Monitoring section). Subsequently, the Team will use these data to either modify the appropriate Regional Mitigation Strategy or recommend adaptive management actions (see Adaptive Management section). The BLM will invite governmental and Tribal partners to participate in this Team, including the SDGFP and USFWS, in compliance with the exemptions provided for committees defined in the Federal Advisory Committee Act and the regulations that implement that act. The BLM will strive for a collaborative and unified approach between Federal agencies, Tribal governments, state and local government(s), and other stakeholders for Greater Sage-Grouse conservation. The Team will provide advice, and will not make any decisions that impact Federal lands. The BLM will remain responsible for making decisions that affect Federal lands.	No change proposed.
Developing a Regional Mitigation Strategy. The Team will develop a Regional Mitigation Strategy to inform the mitigation components of NEPA analyses for BLM management actions and third-party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation. The Strategy will be developed within one year of the issuance of the ROD. The BLM's Regional Mitigation Manual MS-1794 will serve as a framework for developing the Regional Mitigation Strategy. The Regional Mitigation Strategy will be applicable to the States/Field Offices within the WAFWA Management Zone's boundaries. Regional mitigation is a landscape-scale approach to mitigating impacts on resources. This involves anticipating future mitigation needs and strategically identifying mitigation sites and measures that can provide a net conservation gain to the species. The Regional Mitigation Strategy developed by the Team will elaborate on the components identified above (i.e., avoidance, minimization, and compensation; additionality, timeliness, and durability).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
In the time period before the Strategy is developed, BLM will consider regional conditions, trends, and sites, to the greatest extent possible, when applying the mitigation hierarchy and will ensure that mitigation is consistent with the standards set forth in the first paragraph of this section.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

South Dakota RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Incorporating the Regional Mitigation Strategy into NEPA Analyses. The BLM will include the avoidance, minimization, and compensatory recommendations from the Regional Mitigation Strategy in one or more of the NEPA analysis' alternatives for BLM management actions and third-party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation, and the appropriate mitigation actions will be carried forward into the decision. Implementing a Compensatory Mitigation Program. Consistent with the principles identified above, the BLM needs to ensure that compensatory mitigation is strategically implemented to provide a net conservation gain to the species, as identified in the Regional Mitigation Strategy. To align with existing compensatory mitigation efforts, this compensatory mitigation program will be implemented at a State level (as opposed to a WAFWA Management Zone, a Field Office, or a Forest), in collaboration with our partners (e.g., Federal, Tribal, and State agencies). To ensure transparent and effective management of the compensatory mitigation funds, the BLM will enter into a contract or agreement with a third-party to help manage the State-level compensatory mitigation funds, within one year of the issuance of the ROD. The selection of the third-party compensatory mitigation administrator will conform to all relevant laws, regulations, and policies. The BLM will remain responsible for making decisions that affect Federal lands. Information on BMPs, Guidelines and SOPs can be found in Appendix J. RDFs are described in Appendix C.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

South Dakota RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
2.3.3 Adaptive Management Strategy for Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management Decisions: Adaptive Management is a decision process that promotes flexible resource management decision-making that can be adjusted in the face of uncertainties as outcomes from management actions and other events become better understood. Careful monitoring of these outcomes both advances scientific understanding and helps with adjusting resource management directions as part of an iterative learning process. Adaptive management also recognizes the importance of natural variability in contributing to ecological resilience and productivity. Adaptive management does not represent an end in itself, but rather a means to more effective decisions and enhanced benefits. On February 1, 2008, the USDI published its Adaptive Management Implementation Policy (522 DM 1). The adaptive management strategy presented within this EIS complies with this policy and direction. The GRSG Monitoring Framework will be used to inform adaptive management; the GRSG Monitoring Framework can be found in Appendix D. The following provides the BLM adaptive management strategy for the South Dakota ARMP.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Adaptive Management Triggers Adaptive management triggers are essential for identifying when potential management changes are needed in order to continue meeting Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives. The BLM will use soft and hard triggers. Soft Triggers are indicators that management or specific activities may not be achieving the intended results of conservation actions. The soft trigger is any negative deviation from normal trends in habitat or population in any given year, or if observed across two to three consecutive years. Metrics include, but are not limited to, annual lek counts, wing counts, aerial surveys, habitat monitoring, and Density and Disturbance Calculation Tool (DDCT) evaluations. BLM field offices, local SDGFP offices, and sage-grouse working groups will evaluate the metrics. The purpose of these strategies is to address localized Greater Sage-Grouse population and habitat changes by providing the framework in which management will change if monitoring identifies negative population trends and habitat anomalies. Each major project (EIS level) will include adaptive management strategies in support of the population management objectives for Greater Sage-Grouse set by the State of South Dakota, and will be consistent with this Greater Sage-Grouse Adaptive Management Plan. These adaptive management strategies will be developed in partnership with the State of South Dakota, project proponents, partners, and stakeholders, incorporating the best available science.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

South Dakota RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Soft Triggers Response - Soft triggers require immediate monitoring and surveillance to determine causal factors and may require curtailment of activities in the short or long term, as allowed by law. The project-level adaptive management strategies will identify appropriate responses where the project's activities are identified as the causal factor. The management agency and the adaptive management group will implement an appropriate response strategy to address causal factors not addressed by specific project adaptive management strategies, not attributable to a specific project, or to make adjustments at a larger regional or state-wide level. Hard Triggers are indicators that management is not achieving desired conservation results. Hard triggers would be considered a catastrophic indicator that the species is not responding to conservation actions, or that a larger-scale impact is having a negative effect. Hard triggers are focused on three metrics: 1) number of active leks, 2) acres of available habitat, and 3) population trends based on annual lek counts. Within the context of normal population variables, hard triggers shall be determined to take effect when two of the three metrics exceeds 60% of normal variability for the BSU in a single year, or when any of the three metrics exceeds 40% of normal variability for a three-year time period within a five-year range of analysis. A minimum of three years is used to determine trends, with a five-year period preferred to allow determination of three actual time periods (i.e., Y1-2-3, Y2-3-4, Y3-4-5). Baseline population estimates are established by pre-disturbance surveys, reference surveys, and account for regional and statewide trends in population levels. Population count data in South Dakota are maintained by SDGFP. Estimates of population are determined based upon survey protocols determined by SDGFP, and are implemented consistently throughout the state. Population counts are tracked for individual leks and are then summarized by county and for the state. Hard Trigger Response - Hard triggers represent a threshold indicating that immediate action is necessary to stop a severe deviation from Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives set forth in the BLM plans. As such, the ARMP includes a "hard-wired" plan-level response; that is, it provides that, upon reaching the trigger, a more restrictive alternative, or an appropriate component of a more restrictive alternative analyzed in the Proposed RMP and Final EIS, will be implemented without further action by the BLM. Specific "hard-wired" changes in management are identified in Table 2-7, Specific Management Responses, below. In addition to the specific changes identified in Table 2-7, the BLM will review available and pertinent data, in coordination with Greater Sage-Grouse biologists and managers from multiple	(See above.)

South Dakota RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
agencies, including the USFWS, NRCS, and the State of South Dakota, to determine the causal factor(s) and implement a corrective strategy. The corrective strategy would include the changes identified in Table 2-7 and could also include the need to amend or revise the ARMP to address the situation and modify management accordingly. Upon determination that a hard trigger has been tripped, the BLM will immediately defer issuance of discretionary authorizations for new actions within the BSU for a period of 90 days. When a hard trigger is hit in a BSU, including those that cross state lines, the WAFWA Management Zone Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Team will convene to determine the casual factor(s), put project level responses in place, as appropriate, and discuss further appropriate actions to be applied. In addition to implementing the hard wired plan-level response, in the event that new scientific information becomes available demonstrating that the hard-wired response would be insufficient to stop a severe deviation from sage-grouse conservation objectives set forth in the BLM plans, the BLM will immediately implement a formal directive to protect GRSG and its habitat and to ensure that conservation options are not foreclosed. To the extent that it is supported scientifically, this formal directive will be drawn from the range of alternatives analyzed in the RMP Amendments/Revisions.	(See above.)
Adaptive Management and Monitoring This EIS contains a monitoring framework plan (Appendix D) that includes an effectiveness monitoring component. The agencies intend to use the data collected from the effectiveness monitoring to identify any changes in habitat conditions related to the goals and objectives of the plan and other range-wide conservation strategies BLM 2004; Stiver et al. 2006; USFWS 2013). The information collected through the Monitoring Framework Plan (Appendix D) will be used by the BLM to determine when adaptive management hard and soft triggers (discussed below) are met. Adaptive management responses at the RMP level were included as part of the assumptions when impacts were analyzed in Chapter 4 of the Proposed RMP. In making amendments to this plan, the BLM will coordinate with the FWS as BLM continues to meet its objective of conserving, enhancing and restoring GRSG habitat by reducing, minimizing or eliminating threats to that habitat. The GRSG adaptive management plan provides a means of addressing and responding to unintended negative impacts on GRSG and its habitat before consequences become severe or irreversible. The hard and soft trigger data will be analyzed as soon as it becomes available after the signing of the ROD and then at a minimum, analyzed annually thereafter.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

South Dakota RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions: Wildland Fire Ecology and Management	
MD-33 Prescribed Fire: Prescribed fire may be allowed in PHMA and general habitat if it is done solely for the purposes of improving or maintaining sage-grouse habitat. If prescribed fire is used in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan will address the following: • Why alternative techniques were not selected as a viable options; • How Greater Sage-Grouse goals and objectives would be met by its use; • How the COT report objectives would be addressed and met; • Develop a risk assessment to address how potential threats to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat would be minimized. Prescribed fire as a vegetation or fuels treatment shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Prescribed fire could be used to meet specific fuels objectives that would protect Greater Sage-Grouse habitat in PHMA (e.g., creation of fuel breaks that would disrupt the fuel continuity across the landscape in stands where annual invasive grasses are a minor component in the understory, and burning slash piles from conifer reduction treatments, used as a component with other treatment methods to combat annual grasses and restore native plant communities). Prescribed fire in known winter range shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Any prescribed fire in winter habitat would be designed to strategically reduce wildfire risk around and/or in the winter range and designed to protect winter range habitat quality. Secretarial order SO3336 will be applied to protect GRSG habitat from fire: http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/rangeland/index.shtml.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

South Dakota RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions: Lands and Realty	
MD-27 Lands and Realty: PHMA and GHMA within the Center of the Nation will be Class 2 land retention areas (Appendix A2, Map E and Figure 1-3). Any land disposals will be limited and subject to specialist review. Refer to the Land Tenure subsection of the Lands section of this table for additional details about Class 2 retention criteria. BLM could also dispose of land in PHMA and GHMA within the Center of the Nation areas in cases where there is mixed ownership, and land exchanges will allow for additional or more contiguous federal ownership patterns. Under sage-grouse habitat areas with minority federal ownership, BLM will develop an additional, effective mitigation agreement for any disposal of federal land. As a final preservation measure, consideration will be given to pursuing a permanent conservation easement. Lands classified as PHMA and GHMA for GRSG will be retained in federal management unless: (1) the agency can demonstrate that disposal of the lands, including land exchanges, will provide a net conservation gain to the GRSG or (2) the agency can demonstrate that the disposal, including land exchanges, of the lands will have no direct or indirect adverse impact on conservation of the GRSG. The agency can demonstrate that disposal of the lands will provide a net conservation gain to Greater Sage-Grouse; or the agency can demonstrate that the disposal of the lands will have no direct or indirect adverse impact on conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse.	No change proposed.
MD-12 Renewable Energy ROWs: Renewable Energy ROWs: 1 mile from leks will be an exclusion area, the rest of the GHMA will be an avoidance area. Other types of ROWs: Major ROWs (power lines 100 kilovolt (kV) and pipelines 24 inches and over) will be avoided. Minor ROWs within 2 miles of a lek will be avoidance, the rest of the GHMA will be open. Where new ROWs are necessary, ROWs will be co-located within existing ROWs where possible. GHMA and PHMA within the Center of the Nation will be Class 2 land retention areas (Appendix A1: Figure 2-10).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

South Dakota RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD-18 Utility and Power lines: All new utility and power lines (overhead lines) that can be safely buried will be buried within 2 miles of GRSg leks and within GRSg winter range. When burial of power lines is not possible, above ground lines will be located and designed to minimize impacts of predation, collision and other associated stressors to GRSg. Existing overhead lines within 2 miles of leks and within GRSg winter range will be evaluated for threats to GRSg and if necessary, modified to reduce the threat. If modification is not likely to be effective, the overhead line may be relocated. Any requirements for modification or relocation of existing overhead lines will be subject to valid existing rights. Oil and Gas (O&G) - CSU: All new utility and power lines that can be safely buried will be buried within 2 miles of sage-grouse leks and within sage-grouse winter range. When burial of power lines is not possible, above ground lines will be located and designed to minimize impacts of predation, collision and other associated stressors to sage-grouse. Existing overhead lines within 2 miles of leks and within sage-grouse winter range will be evaluated for threats to sage-grouse and if necessary, modified to reduce the threat. If modification will not likely be effective, the overhead line may be relocated. Any requirements for modification or relocation of existing overhead lines will be subject to valid existing rights.	No change proposed.
MD-15 Renewable Energy/Winter Range: GRSg winter range will be an exclusion area. Within GHMA, major ROWs are avoidance and minor ROWs are avoidance within two miles of leks with GHMA. The rest of the GHMA is open to minor ROWs. GRSg winter range will be an avoidance area. In cases where avoidance is not possible, BLM may require design features to mitigate impacts or co-location of new ROWs with existing ROWs where possible.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD-25 Renewable Energy ROWs: PHMA will be exclusion areas. Other types of ROWs: PHMA will be avoidance areas. Winter range is an exclusion areas for renewable energy ROWs.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

South Dakota RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD-26 General ROWs: PHMA are defined as avoidance areas for all General ROWs (major and minor). Renewable ROWs are addressed in MD-25 above. Sage-Grouse winter range is treated the same in PHMA and GHMA: These areas are avoidance areas for general ROWs. If a proposed project cannot be avoided, the following actions will apply: *Within PHMA all new power and utility lines (overhead lines) that can be safely buried will be buried. *When burial of power lines is not possible, above ground lines will be located and designed to minimize impacts of predation, collision and other associated stressors to sage-grouse. *Existing overhead lines within PHMA and within sage-grouse winter range will be evaluated for threats to sage-grouse and if necessary, modified to reduce the threat. If modification is not likely to be effective, the overhead line may be relocated. *Any requirements for modification or relocation of existing overhead lines will be subject to valid existing rights. *Consider the likelihood of development of not-yet-constructed surface-disturbing activities – as defined in Table 2 of the Monitoring Framework (Appendix D)–under valid existing rights prior to authorizing new projects in PHMA.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD-30 Rights of Ways (ROWs): Winter range in PHMA will be treated the same as winter range in GHMA: Renewable Energy ROWs in sage-grouse winter range will be an exclusion area. Other types of ROWs in sage-grouse winter range will be an avoidance area. In cases where avoidance is not possible, BLM may require co-location of new ROWs with existing ROWs where possible. ROWs are defined for sage-grouse management in terms of major and minor ROWs. Major ROWs include transmission lines 100kV and greater and pipelines 24 inches in width and greater. Minor ROWs include utilities under these design descriptions, as well as communication sites and towers. Greater Sage-Grouse PHMA are avoidance areas for major and minor ROWs. Within GHMA, major ROWs are avoidance and minor ROWs are avoidance within two miles of leks with GHMA. The rest of the GHMA is open to minor ROWs. Sage-Grouse winter range is treated the same in PHMA and GHMA: These areas are avoidance areas for general ROWs and exclusion areas for renewable energy ROWs.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

South Dakota RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions: Fluid Mineral Resources	
MD-22 (part): Where the federal government owns the surface and the mineral estate is in non-federal ownership in PHMA and GHMA, the federal government will apply appropriate surface use COAs, stipulations, and mineral RDFs through ROW grants or other surface management instruments, to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities, in coordination with the mineral estate owner/lessee.	No change proposed.
MD 22 (part): Where the federal government owns the mineral estate in PHMA and GHMA, and the surface is in non-federal ownership, the federal government will apply the same stipulations, Conditions of Approval (COAs), and/or conservation measures and mineral RDFs if the mineral estate is developed on BLM-administered lands in that management area, to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities, and in coordination with the landowner.	No change proposed.
MD-11 Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities and Fluid Minerals: Surface disturbing and disruptive activities will be avoided within 6/10 of a mile of sage-grouse leks. BLM will apply the lek buffer-distances in the US Geological Survey (USGS) Report "Conservation Buffer Distance Estimates for Greater Sage-Grouse-A Review (Open File Report 2014-1239)" in both GHMA and PHMA as detailed in Appendix B, Applying Lek Buffer-Distances When Approving Actions.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD-14 Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities and Fluid Minerals (part): Surface disturbing and disruptive activities will be avoided in winter range for sage-grouse unless the project proponent can clearly demonstrate that the impacts can be adequately mitigated, Conservation Actions, Guidelines or needed design features (Appendices C and F) are included and the goals for sage-grouse are not compromised. Prior to approving any surface disturbance and disruptive activities, the project proponent will be required to provide a plan approved by BLM to maintain suitability of habitat and avoid or minimize habitat loss and disturbance.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD-29 Surface Disturbance and Disruptive Activities and Fluid Minerals in Winter Range (part): Winter range in PHMA will be treated the same as winter range in GHMA: Surface disturbing and disruptive activities will not be allowed in winter range for sage-grouse unless the project proponent can clearly demonstrate that the impacts can be adequately mitigated, conservation actions or needed design features are included and the goals of this plan are not compromised. Prior to approving any surface disturbance and disruptive activities, the project proponent will be required to provide a plan approved by BLM to maintain suitability of habitat and avoid or minimize habitat loss and disturbance.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

South Dakota RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD-22 (part) Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities and Fluid Minerals: Oil and gas stipulations will also apply to geothermal resources.	No change proposed.
Goal: Priority will be given to leasing and development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, outside of PHMA and GHMA. MD-22 (part) Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities and Fluid Minerals: Priority will be given to leasing and development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, outside of PHMA and GHMA.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD-22 (part) Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities and Fluid Minerals: Fluid Minerals - NSO: PHMA will be managed as NSO and Use (127,735 surface and 412,822 oil and gas subsurface minerals acres). These areas will be open to oil and gas leasing with a NSO stipulation. All sage-grouse habitat that is not part of PHMA will be managed as GHMA as noted in Figure 1-2.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD-11 (Second Part): Fluid Minerals - NSO: NSO or use within 6/10 of a mile from leks. The Authorized Officer (AO) may waive this stipulation if no portion of the leasehold is within 6/10 mile of the perimeter of an active lek.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD-14 Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities and Fluid Minerals (part): Fluid Minerals - NSO: GRSG crucial winter range will be managed as a NSO for oil and gas development and exploration.	No change proposed.
MD-29 Surface Disturbance and Disruptive Activities and Fluid Minerals in Winter Range (part): Fluid Minerals - NSO: Sage-grouse winter range will be managed as a NSO for oil and gas development and exploration. Waivers or modifications to a fluid minerals lease no-surface-occupancy stipulation will not be granted for NSO stipulations in PHMA.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD-16 Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities and Fluid Minerals: Fluid Minerals - A CSU stipulation will apply within 2 miles of leks [GHMA]. The AO may waive this stipulation if no portion of the leasehold is within 2 miles of the perimeter of an active lek. Fluid Minerals: A CSU stipulation will apply within 2 miles of leks [GHMA]. The AO may waive this stipulation if no portion of the leasehold is within 2 miles of the perimeter of an active lek.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

South Dakota RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD-22 (part): Waivers or modifications to a fluid minerals lease NSO stipulation will not be granted. The AO may grant an exception to a fluid mineral lease NSO stipulation in certain cases. Exceptions based on conservation gain (ii) may only be considered in (A) PHMA of mixed ownership where federal minerals underlie less than fifty percent of the total surface, or (b) area of the public lands where the proposed exception is an alternative to an action occurring on a nearby parcel subject to a valid Federal fluid mineral lease existing as of the date of this RMP. See Appendix G.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Decisions: Solid Leasable Minerals	
MD-22 (part): At the time an application for a new coal lease or lease modification is submitted to the BLM, the BLM will determine whether the lease application area is “unsuitable” for all or certain coal mining methods pursuant to 43 CFR, Part 3461.5. PHMA is essential habitat for maintaining GRSG for purposes of the suitability criteria set forth at 43 CFR, Part 3461.5(o)(1).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Decisions: Locatable Materials	
MD-22 (part) Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities and Fluid Minerals: Locatable minerals will be open. RDFs (Appendix C) and other applicable BMPs and Guidelines (Appendix J) will be applied as BMPs or Guidelines for locatable minerals, subject to valid existing rights and the mining laws.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
Management Decisions: Mineral Materials	
MD-22 (part) Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities and Fluid Minerals: Non-energy leasable minerals and salable minerals will be closed except for the following exception: PHMA are closed to new mineral material sales. However, these areas remain “open” to free use permits and the expansion of existing active pits, only if the following criteria are met: The activity is within the BSU and project area disturbance cap; the activity is subject to the provisions set forth in the mitigation measures (Appendix F) BMPs and Guidelines (Appendix J), and RDFs for Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat (Appendix C) are applied, and the activity is permissible under the subregional screening criteria.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
Management Decisions: Recreation	
Management Direction REC-38: In PHMA, do not construct new recreation facilities (e.g., campgrounds, trails, trailheads, and staging areas) unless the development will have a net conservation gain to GRSG habitat (such as concentrating recreation, diverting use away from important areas, etc.), or unless the development is required for visitor health and safety or resource protection.	No change proposed.

South Dakota RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Management Decisions: Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management	
MD-20 Temporary Travel Closures: Temporary travel closures will be considered in accordance with 43 CFR subpart 8364 (Closures and Restrictions); 43 CFR subpart 8351 (Designated National Area); 43 CFR subpart 6302 (Use of Wilderness Areas, Prohibited Acts, and Penalties); and 43 CFR subpart 8341 (Conditions of Use). Temporary closure or restriction orders under these authorities are enacted at the discretion of the AO to resolve management conflicts and protect persons, property, and public lands and resources. Where an AO determines that off-highway vehicles (OHV) are causing or will cause considerable adverse effects upon soil, vegetation, wildlife, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, historical resources, threatened or endangered species, wilderness suitability, other authorized uses, or other resources, the affected areas shall be immediately closed to the type(s) of vehicle causing the adverse effect until the adverse effects are eliminated and measures are implemented to prevent recurrence (43 CFR, Part 8341.2). A closure or restriction order will be considered only after other management strategies and alternatives have been explored. The duration of temporary closure or restriction orders will be limited to 24 months or less; however, certain situations may require longer closures and/or iterative temporary closures. This may include closure of routes or areas.	No change proposed.
Management Decisions: Livestock Grazing	
MD 34: The NEPA analysis for renewals and modifications of livestock grazing permits/leases that include lands within PHMA will include specific management thresholds based on GRSG Habitat Objectives Table and Land Health Standards (43 CFR, Part 4180.2) and one or more defined responses that will allow the authorizing officer to make adjustments to livestock grazing that have already been subjected to NEPA analysis.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD-32 Land Health Standards: BLM will prioritize grazing leases in PHMA to determine if modifications are necessary prior to renewals or if the allotment does not meet Land Health Standards.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

South Dakota RMP Revision	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Management Direction 36: The BLM will prioritize (1) the review of grazing permits/leases, in particular to determine if modification is necessary prior to renewal, and (2) the processing of grazing permits/leases in PHMA. In setting workload priorities, precedence will be given to existing permits/leases in these areas not meeting Land Health Standards, with focus on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows. The BLM may use other criteria for prioritization to respond to urgent natural resource concerns (such as fire) and legal obligations. The NEPA analysis for renewals and modifications of livestock grazing permits/leases that include lands within PHMA will include specific management thresholds, based on GRSG Habitat Objectives (Table 2-3), Habitat Objectives for GRSG and ecological site potential, and one or more defined responses that will allow the authorizing officer to make adjustments to livestock grazing that have already been subjected to NEPA analysis.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD-35-Grazing: Allotments within SFA, followed by those within PHMA, and focusing on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows, will be prioritized for field checks to help ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the grazing permits. Field checks can include monitoring for actual use, utilization, and use supervision. (also see MD-36).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD-37: Range Improvements: Range improvements in PHMA would be allowed if the improvements would not impact GRSG, improvements would provide a conservation benefit to GRSG such as fences for protecting important seasonal habitats, or if improvements would meet the lek buffer requirement. Refer to Appendix B for a discussion about GRSG lek buffers.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD-23: At the time a permittee or lessee voluntarily relinquishes a permit or lease, the BLM will consider whether the public lands where that permitted use was authorized should remain available for livestock grazing or be used for other resource management objectives, such as reserve common allotments or fire breaks. This does not apply to or impact grazing preference transfers, which are addressed in 43 CFR 41.10.2-3.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Table 2. South Dakota Habitat Objectives for GRSG

Attribute	Indicators	Habitat Conditions	Reference
BREEDING HABITAT (LEK AND NESTING/EARLY BROOD REARING)			
Lek Security	Proximity of trees	Trees absent or rare. When present trees consist of rocky mountain juniper and ponderosa pine >328 feet (100 meters) from lek.	Baruch-Mordo et al. 2013 Stiver et al. 2015
	Proximity of sagebrush to leks	Adjacent protective sagebrush cover within 328 feet (100 m) of an occupied lek	Stiver et al. 2015
NESTING/EARLY BROOD REARING			
Cover	Sagebrush canopy cover ²	2-20%	Connelly et al. 2000 Connelly et al. 2003 Hagen et al. 2011
	Sagebrush height	4-12 inches (10.16-30.48 cm)	Connelly et al. 2000
	Predominant sagebrush shape	Predominantly spreading shape ⁵	Stiver et al. 2015
	Perennial grass cover (such as native rhizomatous and bunchgrasses) ²	>10%	Stiver et al. 2015 Connelly et al. 2000
	Perennial grass height (includes residual grasses)	Adequate nest cover based on ecological site potential and seasonal precipitation. ¹⁵	Connelly et al. 2000 Stiver et al. 2015 Connelly et al. 2003 Hagen et al. 2011
	Perennial forb cover ²	>3%, Based on ecological site potential and seasonal precipitation	Connelly et al. 2000
	Perennial forb availability	Preferred forbs are common with several species present ⁶	Stiver et al. 2015
LATE BROOD-REARING/SUMMER I (July-October) (Apply to all habitat outside of nesting/breeding and winter)			
Cover	Sagebrush canopy cover ²	2-20%	Connelly et al. 2000
	Sagebrush height	4 - 12 inches (10.16-30.48 cm)	Connelly et al. 2000
	Perennial grass canopy cover ²	>10%	Connelly et al. 2000
	Upland and riparian perennial forb availability ²	Preferred forbs are common with several preferred species present, ⁶	Stiver et al. 2015
	Riparian meadow habitat condition	Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) ¹³	
WINTER I November-March I (Apply to areas of known or likely winter-use)			
Cover and Food	Seasonal habitat extent	Winter habitat is managed to optimize its potential within the constraints of ecological site potential	Connelly et al. 2000 Stiver et al. 2015
	Sagebrush canopy cover	2-20%	Connelly et al. 2000 Stiver et al. 2015
	Sagebrush height above snow	Winter habitat is managed to optimize its potential within the constraints of ecological site potential	Connelly et al. 2000

NOTES

1 Seasonal dates can be adjusted by local unit according to geographic region.

2 Absolute cover is the actual recorded cover and can exceed 100% when recorded across all species and all layers. It is not relative cover, which is the proportions of each species, and equals 100%. Note that cover is reported for only those species (e.g., sagebrush, preferred forbs) that are sampled to determine suitability of habitat for sage-grouse. Overall cover at the site

will be greater than that sampled for sage-grouse habitat, due to other species present. Percent cover refers to foliar cover, measured using the HAF protocol line-point intercept method.

3 Arid corresponds to the 10 – 12 inch precipitation zone; *Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis* is a common big sagebrush subspecies for this type site (Stiver et al. 2015 In press).

4 Mesic corresponds to the >12 inch precipitation zone.

5 Collectively the indicators for sagebrush (cover, height, and shape), perennial grass and perennial forb (cover, height and/or availability) represent the desired condition range for nesting/early brood rearing habitat characteristics, consistent with the breeding habitat suitability matrix identified in Stiver et al. 2015 In press. Sagebrush plants that are more tree or columnar shaped provide less protective cover near the ground than sagebrush plants with a spreading shape (Stiver et al. 2015 In press). Some sagebrush plants are naturally columnar (e.g., Great Basin big sagebrush), and a natural part of the plant community. However, a predominance of columnar shape arising from animal impacts may warrant management investigation or adjustments at site specific scales.

6 Preferred forbs are listed in Stiver et al. 2015 In press. Overall total forb cover may be greater than that of preferred for cover since not all forb species are listed as preferred.

15 Specific height requirements needed to meet the objective will be set when project level planning is completed.

2.14.2 Relevant Appendices

The following table shows which appendices from the 2015 and 2019 plans have management direction that may change through this RMP amendment. The appendices can be found on [the South Dakota RMP ePlanning website](#).

ARMPA Appendix Name	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
A: Approved RMP Amendment Maps	Yes
B: Applying GRSG Lek Buffer-Distances When Approving Decisions	Yes
C: GRSG Required Design Features	Yes
D: GRSG Monitoring Framework	Yes
E: GRSG Disturbance Caps	Yes
F: GRSG Regional Mitigation Strategy	Yes
G: Fluid Mineral Stipulations	Yes
H: Biological Opinion	No
I: Greater Sage-Grouse Effects Analysis Process	Yes
J: Summary of Mitigation Measures, Best Management Practices (BMPs), Standards, Guidelines, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)	Yes
K: South Dakota Field Office Soil, Water and Reclamation Mitigation Guidelines	No
L: South Dakota Field Office Reclamation Guidelines and Abandoned Mine Actions	No
M: South Dakota Field Office Grazing Allotment Allocations	No
N: Land Ownership Adjustment Criteria	No
O: Soil Monitoring	No
P: Cultural Resource Stipulation for Grazing Leases	No
Q: South Dakota Field Office Air Resource Management Plan: Adaptive Management Strategy for Oil and Gas Resources	No
R: Rights-of-Way and Renewable Energy Avoidance or Exclusion Areas	No
S: Summary of Restrictions Table	No

Appendix 2.15
Utah RMPs

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2.15 UTAH RMPs

This appendix presents the GRSG approved RMP amendment language from the 2015 and 2019 records of decision for Utah. Changes between 2015 and 2019 are noted. The table below notes which goals, objectives, appendices, and management decisions/actions have a potential to change as a result of the current planning effort and if so, under which alternatives changes are being considered. Note that any references to tables and appendices are to those applicable 2015 and 2019 appendices that are listed in **Section 2.15.2** of this appendix.

2.15.1 Existing GRSG RMP Management – Utah RMPs

Table 1: Changes in Management from the 2015 Approved RMPA to the 2019 Approved RMPA

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES (SSS)	SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES (SSS)	—
GOAL:	GOAL:	—
Goal SSS-1: Maintain and/or increase GRSG abundance and distribution by conserving, enhancing or restoring the sagebrush ecosystem upon which populations depend in collaboration with other conservation partners.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Objectives:	Objectives:	—
Objective SSS-1: Designate PHMA that are large enough to stabilize populations in the short-term and enhance populations over the long-term. Protect PHMA from anthropogenic disturbances that will reduce distribution or abundance of GRSG. Enhance or improve GRSG habitat (e.g., through restoration or rehabilitation activities) within PHMA that has been impaired or altered.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Objective SSS-2: In all GRSG habitat, manage activities that result in habitat loss and degradation to provide a net conservation gain of GRSG habitat. Exceptions to net conservation gain for GRSG shall be made for vegetation treatments to benefit Utah prairie dog.	Objective SSS-2: In PHMA, manage activities that result in habitat loss and degradation to improve the condition of GRSG habitat across the planning area. Exceptions to this mitigation standard for GRSG shall be made for vegetation treatments to benefit Utah prairie dog.	No change proposed.

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Objective SSS-3: In all GRSG habitat, where sagebrush is the current or potential dominant vegetation type or is a primary species within the various states of the ecological site description, maintain or restore vegetation to provide habitat for lekking, nesting, brood rearing, and winter habitats. The habitat objectives for GRSG (Table 2) is a list of indicators, characteristics, and values that describe GRSG seasonal habitat use areas. The BLM used indicator values derived from a synthesis of local and regional GRSG habitat research and data to describe the typical vegetation communities that sage-grouse select. While the habitat objectives are not attainable on every site or every acre within designated GRSG habitat management areas, the values reflect a range of habitat conditions that generally lead to greater survival of individuals within a population. When permitting land use activities, BLM should consider the ecological site potential within designated habitat management areas to validate the habitat conditions achievable for a specific site. In addition, areas where PHMA and GHMA overlap mapped Utah prairie dog habitat will be managed for both species; accomplishing this shall include coordination with species specific experts to develop conservation and recovery objectives that will benefit both species. The seasonal habitat descriptions in Table 2 vary across the range of sage-grouse, within a subregion, and between sites. They are not land health standards but are quantitative measures that inform the Special Status Species Habitat Land Health Standard for sage-grouse. These measurable values reflect ecological potential, and may be adjusted based on local factors influencing sage-grouse habitat selection. Local data or recent science may indicate that sage-grouse select for vegetation structure and composition in seasonal habitats not characterized by the values in the habitat objectives table. In these cases, it may be appropriate to adjust the values. Habitat objectives should be evaluated in the	Objective SSS-3: In PHMA, where sagebrush is the current or potential dominant vegetation type or is a primary species within the various states of the ecological site description, maintain or restore vegetation to provide habitat for lekking, nesting, brood rearing, and winter habitats. The habitat objectives for GRSG (Table 3) is a list of indicators, characteristics, and values that describe GRSG seasonal habitat use areas. The BLM used indicator values derived from a synthesis of local and regional GRSG habitat research and data to describe the typical vegetation communities that sage-grouse select. While the habitat objectives are not attainable on every site or every acre within designated GRSG habitat management areas, the values reflect a range of habitat conditions that generally lead to greater survival of individuals within a population. When permitting land use activities, BLM should consider the ecological site potential within designated habitat management areas to validate the habitat conditions achievable for a specific site. In addition, areas where PHMA and GHMA overlap mapped Utah prairie dog habitat will be managed for both species; accomplishing this shall include coordination with species specific experts to develop conservation and recovery objectives that will benefit both species. The seasonal habitat descriptions in Table 3 vary across the range of sage-grouse, within a subregion, and between sites. They are not land health standards but are quantitative measures that inform the Special Status Species Habitat Land Health Standard for sage-grouse. These measurable values reflect ecological potential, and may be adjusted based on local factors influencing sage-grouse habitat selection. Local data or recent science may indicate that sage-grouse select for vegetation structure and composition in seasonal habitats not characterized by the values in the habitat objectives table. In these cases, it may be appropriate to adjust the values. Habitat objectives should be evaluated in the context of annual variability in ecological conditions and should not be used singly to	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
context of annual variability in ecological conditions and should not be used singly to determine habitat suitability for sage-grouse. They may be used to demonstrate trends over time, during plan evaluations for effectiveness of sage-grouse conservation, or when identify limiting habitat characteristics for a given area. The indicators, characteristics, values and desired seasonal habitat conditions in the GRSG Plan Habitat Objectives Table are meant to inform the wildlife habitat component of the Land Health Standards evaluation process (LHS, 43 CFR 4180.2), but do not replace rangeland health assessments. Results from the LHS evaluation should be used to support BLM in land use authorization processes and during development of objectives for management actions such as vegetation treatments. BLM land use authorizations will contain terms and conditions regarding the actions needed to achieve or make progress toward achieving habitat objectives and land health standards. The Habitat Objectives Tables are to be used: • To assess habitat suitability for sage-grouse following the BLM policy on sage-grouse habitat assessments • To evaluate land use plan effectiveness for sage-grouse conservation, and • As a basis to develop measurable project objectives for actions in BLM-designated GRSG Habitat Management areas when considered alongside land health standards, ecological potential and local information.	determine habitat suitability for sage-grouse. They may be used to demonstrate trends over time, during plan evaluations for effectiveness of sage-grouse conservation, or when identify limiting habitat characteristics for a given area. The indicators, characteristics, values and desired seasonal habitat conditions in the GRSG Plan Habitat Objectives Table are meant to inform the wildlife habitat component of the Land Health Standards evaluation process (LHS, 43 CFR 4180.2), but do not replace rangeland health assessments. Results from the LHS evaluation should be used to support BLM in land use authorization processes and during development of objectives for management actions such as vegetation treatments. BLM land use authorizations will contain terms and conditions regarding the actions needed to achieve or make progress toward achieving habitat objectives and land health standards. The Habitat Objectives Tables are to be used: • To assess habitat suitability for sage-grouse following the BLM policy on sage-grouse habitat assessments • To evaluate land use plan effectiveness for sage-grouse conservation, and • As a basis to develop measurable project objectives for actions in BLM-designated GRSG Habitat Management areas when considered alongside land health standards, ecological potential and local information.	(See above.)
Objective SSS-4: Within PHMA, increase the amount and functionality of seasonal habitats by: • Maintaining or increasing sagebrush in perennial grasslands, where needed to meet the Habitat Objectives for Greater Sage-Grouse (Table 2), unless there is a conflict with Utah prairie dog. • Reducing conifer (e.g., pinyon/juniper) from areas that are most likely to support GRSG at a rate that is at least equal to the rate of encroachment. • Reducing the extent of annual grasslands.	Objective SSS-4: Within PHMA, increase the amount and functionality of seasonal habitats by: • Maintaining or increasing sagebrush in perennial grasslands, where needed to meet the Habitat Objectives for Greater Sage-Grouse (Table 3), unless there is a conflict with Utah prairie dog. • Reducing conifer (e.g., pinyon/juniper) from areas that are most likely to support GRSG at a rate that is at least equal to the rate of encroachment. • Reducing the extent of invasive annual grasslands.	No change proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan																																																						
• Maintaining or improving corridors for migration or movement between seasonal habitats, as well as for long-term genetic connections between populations. • Maintaining or improving understory (grass, forb) and/or riparian condition within breeding and late brood-rearing habitats. • Conducting vegetation treatments based on the following 10-year (decadal) acreage objectives: Table 1a. Vegetation Treatments per 10-year (decadal) Acreage Objectives (2015) <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Population Areas</th><th>Mechanical Treatment¹</th><th>Annual Grass Treatment¹</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Box Elder</td><td>9,300</td><td>17,800</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ibapah; Hamlin Valley</td><td>17,900</td><td>2,100</td></tr> <tr> <td>Rich; Uintah</td><td>40,700</td><td>6,800</td></tr> <tr> <td>Carbon</td><td>2,600</td><td>200</td></tr> <tr> <td>Bald Hills; Panguitch</td><td>43,900</td><td>8,900</td></tr> <tr> <td>Parker Mountain</td><td>32,800</td><td>2,200</td></tr> <tr> <td>Sheeprocks</td><td>33,700</td><td>10,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>Statewide</td><td>180,900</td><td>48,000</td></tr> </tbody> </table> ¹ These acreage figures, based on Vegetation Dynamics Development Tool modeling, represent an objective for treatment on BLM-administered lands over a 10-year (decadal) time frame to support achievement or progress toward GRSG habitat objectives (see Final EIS Appendix V, Great Basin Vegetation Modeling using Vegetation Dynamics Development Tool). This accounts for variations in yearly funding availability and does not reflect a maximum or minimum acreage for any one treatment type or total treatment acreage, should funding and site specific conditions allow for more or less treatment acreage than described in order to meet habitat objectives. Outside PHMA (in adjacent opportunity areas) improve and restore historical GRSG habitat to support GRSG populations and to maintain or enhance connectivity. Statewide, complete a decadal average of 170,200 acres of mechanical treatments and 33,000 acres of annual grass treatments. Prioritization is for completion of treatments within PHMA before treating areas outside.	Population Areas	Mechanical Treatment ¹	Annual Grass Treatment ¹	Box Elder	9,300	17,800	Ibapah; Hamlin Valley	17,900	2,100	Rich; Uintah	40,700	6,800	Carbon	2,600	200	Bald Hills; Panguitch	43,900	8,900	Parker Mountain	32,800	2,200	Sheeprocks	33,700	10,000	Statewide	180,900	48,000	• Maintaining or improving corridors for migration or movement between seasonal habitats, as well as for long-term genetic connections between populations. • Maintaining or improving understory (grass, forb) and/or riparian condition within breeding and late brood-rearing habitats. • Conducting vegetation treatments based on the following 10-year (decadal) acreage objectives: Table 1b. Vegetation Treatments per 10-year (decadal) Acreage Objectives (2019) <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Population Areas</th><th>Mechanical Treatment¹</th><th>Annual Grass Treatment¹</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Box Elder</td><td>9,300</td><td>17,800</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ibapah; Hamlin Valley</td><td>17,900</td><td>2,100</td></tr> <tr> <td>Rich; Uintah</td><td>40,700</td><td>6,800</td></tr> <tr> <td>Carbon</td><td>2,600</td><td>200</td></tr> <tr> <td>Bald Hills; Panguitch</td><td>43,900</td><td>8,900</td></tr> <tr> <td>Parker Mountain</td><td>32,800</td><td>2,200</td></tr> <tr> <td>Sheeprocks</td><td>33,700</td><td>10,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>Statewide</td><td>180,900</td><td>48,000</td></tr> </tbody> </table> ¹ These acreage figures, based on Vegetation Dynamics Development Tool modeling, represent an objective for treatment on BLM-administered lands over a 10-year (decadal) time frame to support achievement or progress toward GRSG habitat objectives (see Final EIS Appendix V, Great Basin Vegetation Modeling using Vegetation Dynamics Development Tool). This accounts for variations in yearly funding availability and does not reflect a maximum or minimum acreage for any one treatment type or total treatment acreage, should funding and site specific conditions allow for more or less treatment acreage than described in order to meet habitat objectives. Outside PHMA (in adjacent opportunity areas) improve and restore historical GRSG habitat to support GRSG populations and to maintain or enhance connectivity. Statewide, complete a decadal average of 170,200 acres of mechanical treatments and 33,000 acres of annual grass treatments. Prioritization is for completion of treatments within PHMA before treating areas outside.	Population Areas	Mechanical Treatment ¹	Annual Grass Treatment ¹	Box Elder	9,300	17,800	Ibapah; Hamlin Valley	17,900	2,100	Rich; Uintah	40,700	6,800	Carbon	2,600	200	Bald Hills; Panguitch	43,900	8,900	Parker Mountain	32,800	2,200	Sheeprocks	33,700	10,000	Statewide	180,900	48,000	(See above.)
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Objective SSS-5: Participate in local GRSG conservation efforts (e.g., the appropriate State of Utah agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and local working groups) to implement landscape-scale habitat conservation, to implement consistent management to benefit GRSG, and to gather and use local research and monitoring to promote the conservation of GRSG.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Management Actions (MA):	Management Actions (MA):	Management Actions (MA):
MA-SSS-I: Identify PHMA and GHMA as identified in Table 4 below (Figure 2-1, Habitat Management Areas [Appendix A, Approved RMP Amendment Maps]): The BLM will apply these the goals, objectives, and management actions where the agency has discretion to implement them; the actions do not apply in areas where the BLM does not administer the surface or mineral estate. Minor adjustments to PHMA/GHMA external boundaries can be made if BLM biologists, in coordination with the appropriate State of Utah agency, determine site-specific conditions warrant such changes to more accurately depict existing or potential GRSG habitat. The appropriate planning process (i.e., plan maintenance or plan amendment) will be used, as determined on a case-by-case basis considering site-specific issues. See additional information and protocol on adjusting occupied habitat and PHMA/GHMA boundaries in Appendix K, Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Baseline and Habitat Update Protocol. The PHMA and GHMA objectives and management actions would apply to existing sagebrush areas and areas with ecological sagebrush potential within the respective PHMA and GHMA polygons. In the mapped PHMA and GHMA there may be areas that lack the principle habitat components necessary for GRSG, including but not limited to rock outcrops, alkaline flats, and pinyon-juniper ecological sites. These are areas that do not have existing sagebrush or ecological potential to contain sagebrush. These areas of non-habitat may be identified during site-	Identify PHMA as follows in Table 5 below (Figure 2-1, Habitat Management Areas [Appendix A, 2015 ROD/ Approved RMPA Maps]): The BLM will apply these the goals, objectives, and management actions where the agency has discretion to implement them; the actions do not apply in areas where the BLM does not administer the surface or mineral estate. The PHMA boundaries are not intended to represent a survey-grade boundary and are not expected to be used exclusively at a project-level. In accordance with the adaptive management framework and existing law, regulation and policy, inventories will continue to be conducted to provide information on GRSG habitat and distribution (FLPMA, 43 USC 1701 Sec. 201 (a), BLM Manual 6840 .04 D 3; BLM-M-6840 .04 E 2). Prior to considering proposed actions within PHMA, a field investigation should be conducted by a qualified biologist in collaboration with federal and state biologists. To this end, additional site-specific information associated with local surveys could result in a more precise delineation of habitat management areas. If in the review of a proposed action, there are discrepancies between the PHMA maps and the on-the-ground conditions, the on-the-ground information should be used to determine where the management would be applied. Minor adjustments to PHMA external boundaries (increases or decreases) can be made if BLM biologists, in coordination with the appropriate State of Utah agency, determine site-specific conditions warrant such changes to more accurately depict	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

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specific project review by agency biologists, in discussion with the appropriate State of Utah agency. Because of the importance of PHMA to conserve, enhance and restore GRSG and its habitat, objectives and management actions will apply to all the areas within the respective PHMA polygons. The GHMA objectives and management actions will apply to the areas of identified non-habitat within the GHMA polygons unless all the following conditions are met: - the non-habitat does not provide important connectivity between areas with existing or potential habitat; - all direct and indirect impacts that impair the function of adjacent seasonal habitats or the life-history or behavioral needs of the GRSG population are eliminated through project design (e.g., minimize sound, preclude tall structures, require perch deterrents), as demonstrated in the project's NEPA document. Exceptions in non-habitat may be approved by the Authorized Officer, but only with the concurrence of one level of delegated authority above the Authorized Officer. Any exception granted based on the above criteria would only apply to the specific project-level authorization. Proposed projects in the same area would need to undergo individual analysis to confirm the criteria are met prior to subsequent authorizations. Excepting a site-specific project from compliance with GRSG management in an area of non-habitat would not change the boundaries of PHMA or GHMA.	existing or potential GRSG habitat. The appropriate planning process (i.e., plan maintenance or plan amendment) will be used, as determined on a case-by-case basis considering site-specific issues. See additional information and protocol on adjusting seasonal habitat and PHMA boundaries in Appendix K, Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Baseline and Habitat Update Protocol. The PHMA objectives and management actions apply to ecological sites that currently provide GRSG habitat within the respective PHMA polygons, as well as areas with ecological potential for GRSG habitat that have not cross an ecological threshold to a different stable non-GRSG habitat vegetation community. Mapped PHMA may also include areas that lack the principle habitat components necessary for GRSG, including but not limited to rock outcrops, alkaline flats, pinyon-juniper ecological sites, and areas that have crossed an ecological threshold to a different stable non-GRSG habitat vegetation community, such as cheatgrass monocultures or pinyon/juniper woodlands (phase 3, absent sagebrush understory) (Chambers et al. 2014; Bestelmeyer et al. 2010; Bestelmeyer, et al. 2011). These are areas that do not contain sagebrush or other vegetation necessary for the various GRSG seasonal habitats. These areas of non-habitat may be identified during site-specific project review by agency biologists, in discussion with the appropriate State of Utah agency. The PHMA objectives and management actions will apply to the areas identified as habitat, as well as non-habitat within the PHMA polygons unless both of the following conditions are met: - the non-habitat does not provide important connectivity between seasonal habitats; and - direct and indirect impacts on adjacent seasonal habitats (disturbance to or disruption of) that would impair their biological function of providing the life-history or behavioral needs of the GRSG population are eliminated through project design (e.g., minimize sound, preclude tall	(See above.)

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(See above.)	structures, require perch deterrents), as demonstrated in the project's NEPA document. Any exception granted based on the above criteria would only apply to the specific project-level authorization. Proposed projects in the same area would need to undergo individual analysis to confirm the criteria are met prior to subsequent authorizations. Excepting a site-specific project from compliance with GRSG management in an area of non-habitat would not change the boundaries of PHMA.	(See above.)
MA-SSS-2: Designate SFA as shown on Figure 2-1 (181,100 acres of BLM surface estate; 52,200 acres split-estate federal minerals). SFA will be managed as PHMA, with the following additional management: • Recommended for withdrawal from the Mining Law of 1872 (as amended), subject to valid existing rights. • Managed as NSO, without waiver, exception, or modification, for fluid mineral leasing. • Prioritized for vegetation management and conservation actions in these areas, including, but not limited to land health assessments, wild horse and burro management actions, review of livestock grazing permits/leases, and habitat restoration (see specific management sections).	No similar action.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

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MA-SSS-3: In PHMA, apply the following management to discretionary disturbances or activities that are not otherwise excluded or closed to minimize and mitigate effects on GRSG and its habitat from the project/activity: <u>A- Net Conservation Gain:</u> In all GRSG habitat, in undertaking BLM management actions, and, consistent with valid existing rights and applicable law, in authorizing third-party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation, the BLM will require and ensure mitigation that provides a net conservation gain to the species, including accounting for any uncertainty associated with the effectiveness of such mitigation. This will be achieved by avoiding, minimizing, and compensating for impacts by applying beneficial mitigation actions. Exceptions to net conservation gain for GRSG shall be made for vegetation treatments to benefit Utah prairie dog. Mitigation will be conducted according to the mitigation framework contained in Appendix F, Mitigation Strategy: Utah Greater Sage-Grouse RMPA. Consider the likelihood of development of not-yet-constructed surface-disturbing activities – as defined in Table D.2 of the Monitoring Framework (Appendix D)–under valid existing rights prior to authorizing new projects in PHMA. <u>B- Disturbance Cap</u> In PHMA, manage discrete anthropogenic disturbances, whether temporary or permanent, so they cover less than 3 percent of 1) PHMA associated with a GRSG population area and 2) within a proposed project analysis area. See Appendix E, Greater Sage-Grouse Disturbance Cap Guidance, for additional information on implementing the disturbance cap, including what is and is not considered disturbance and how to calculate the proposed project analysis area. If the 3 percent anthropogenic disturbance cap is exceeded on all lands (regardless of land ownership) within GRSG PHMA in any given population area (BSU), then no	MA-SSS-3: In PHMA, apply the following management to discretionary disturbances or activities that are not otherwise excluded or closed to minimize and mitigate effects on GRSG and its habitat from the project/activity: <u>A- Mitigation Strategy:</u> In PHMA, when undertaking BLM management actions, and, consistent with valid existing rights and applicable law, when authorizing third-party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation, the BLM will achieve the planning-level GRSG management goals and objectives through implementation of mitigation and management actions. Under this Proposed Plan Amendment, management would be consistent with the GRSG goals and objectives, and in conformance with BLM Manual 6840, Special Status Species Management. In accordance with BLM Manual 6840, the BLM will undertake planning decisions, actions and authorizations “to minimize or eliminate threats affecting the status of [GRSG] or to improve the condition of [GRSG] habitat” across the planning area. Exceptions to this mitigation strategy for GRSG shall be made for vegetation treatments to benefit Utah prairie dog. Compensation, which involves replacing or providing substitute resources for the impacts (including through payments to fund such work), would be considered only when voluntarily offered by a proponent, required by a law other than FLPMA, or to meet a State recommendation or requirement. Therefore, consistent with valid existing rights and applicable law, when considering third-party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation, the BLM will consider compensatory mitigation actions only as a component of compliance with a State mitigation plan, program, or authority; when required by a federal law other than FLPMA; or when offered voluntarily by a project proponent. Accordingly, before authorizing third-party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation in PHMA or State of Utah SGMAs, the BLM will complete the following steps:	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

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further discrete anthropogenic disturbances (subject to applicable laws and regulations, such as the Mining Law of 1872 [as amended], valid existing rights, etc.) will be permitted by the BLM within GRSG PHMA in any given population area (BSU) until the disturbance has been reduced to less than the cap. If the 3 percent disturbance cap is exceeded on all lands (regardless of land ownership) within a proposed project analysis area in PHMA, then no further anthropogenic disturbance will be permitted by the BLM until disturbance in the proposed project analysis area has been reduced to maintain the area under the cap (subject to applicable laws and regulations, such as the Mining Law of 1872 [as amended], valid existing rights, etc.). Within designated utility corridors, the 3 percent disturbance cap may be exceeded at the project scale if the site specific NEPA analysis indicates that a net conservation gain to the species will be achieved. This exception is limited to projects which fulfill the use for which the corridors were designated (ex., transmission lines, pipelines) and the designated width of a corridor will not be exceeded as a result of any project co-location. An area with disturbance is not excluded from the 3 percent until it has been restored to provide GRSG habitat. The objective of successful restoration is to provide for the needs of GRSG, as evidenced by one of the following: • Vegetative cover is consistent with the GRSG habitat objectives and the ecological site description (Objective SSS-3), or • Monitoring indicates the area is regularly used by GRSG to sustain one or more seasonal habitat requirements (nesting, brood-rearing, winter). Final restoration success and approval for abandonment for disturbances will be subject to an interdisciplinary review of available monitoring data and final monitoring reports.	1) Notify the appropriate State of Utah agency to determine if the State of Utah requires or recommends any additional mitigation – including compensatory mitigation – under State regulations, policies, or programs related to the conservation of GRSG; 2) Recommend to the project proponent that it coordinate with the appropriate State of Utah agency to ensure it complies with all applicable State requirements relating to its proposal; 3) Consider the State’s recommendations – if the State of Utah determines that there are unacceptable residual impacts on GRSG or its habitat and compensatory mitigation is required as a part of State policy or authorization, or if a proponent voluntarily offers mitigation, the BLM will incorporate that mitigation into the BLM’s NEPA and decision-making process; 4) The BLM will ensure mitigation outcomes are consistent with the State of Utah’s mitigation strategy and principles outlined in the State’s Conservation Plan for Greater Sage-Grouse, including, but not limited to: a) Creating, restoring and/or protecting functional habitat or habitat corridors to offset the impacts of unavoidable disturbance to GRSG habitat, b) In most cases, compensatory mitigation projects should be completed before the project triggering mitigation occurs, c) Compensatory mitigation projects should account for the risk that the mitigation may fail or not persist for the full duration of the project it is intended to offset, d) Compensatory mitigation projects should provide habitat that is in place for at least the duration of the project it is intended to offset. Project-specific analysis will be necessary to determine how a compensatory mitigation proposal addresses impacts from a proposed action. The BLM will cooperate with the State to determine appropriate project design and alignment with State policies and requirements, including those regarding compensatory mitigation. The	(See above.)

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<u>C- Density of Energy/Mining Facilities</u> Subject to applicable laws and regulations and valid existing rights, if the average density of one energy and mining facility per 640 acres (the density cap) is exceeded on all lands (regardless of land ownership) in PHMA within a proposed project analysis area, then no further disturbance from energy or mining facilities will be permitted by BLM: (1) until disturbance in the proposed project analysis area has been reduced to maintain the limit under the cap; or (2) unless the energy or mining facility is collocated into an existing disturbed area (subject to applicable laws and regulations, such as the Mining Law of 1872 [as amended], valid existing rights, etc.). Energy and mining facilities to which this action applies are: • Oil and gas wells and development facilities, • Coal mines, • Wind towers, • Solar fields, • Geothermal wells/developments, and • Active locatable, leasable, and saleable developments. <u>D- Predation</u> In PHMA, eliminate or minimize external food sources for corvids, particularly dumps, or waste transfer facilities. Apply best management practices (BMP) to development activities to reduce opportunities for GRSG predators (e.g., limiting food sources, nest/perches deterrents, and road kill). Apply habitat management practices (e.g. grazing management and vegetation treatments) that decrease the effectiveness of predators. Collaborate with applicable government entities to implement programs to control predator populations of GRSG (e.g., ravens, red fox, badgers, and raccoons). <u>E- Noise Restrictions:</u> In PHMA, limit noise from discrete anthropogenic disturbances, whether during construction, operation, or maintenance, to not exceed 10 decibels above ambient sound levels (as available at the signing of the GRSG RMPA ROD or as	BLM will defer to the appropriate State authority to quantify habitat offsets, durability, and other aspects used to determine the recommended compensatory mitigation action. The BLM will not deny a proposed authorization in GRSG habitat solely on the grounds that the proponent has not proposed or agreed to undertake voluntary compensatory mitigation. In cases where waivers, exceptions, or modification may be granted for projects with a residual impact, voluntary compensatory mitigation consistent with the State's management goals can be one mechanism by which a proponent achieves the RMPA goals, objectives, and waiver, exception, or modification criteria. When a proponent volunteers compensatory mitigation as their chosen approach to address residual impacts, the BLM can incorporate those actions into the rationale used to grant a waiver, exception, or modification. The final decision to grant a waiver, exception, or modification will be based, in part, on criteria consistent with the State's GRSG management plans and policies. In short, the BLM would continue to apply the mitigation hierarchy as described in the CEQ regulations at 40 CFR 1508.20; however, the BLM would focus on avoiding, minimizing, rectifying, and reducing impacts over time. Compensation would be considered only when voluntarily offered by a proponent, required by a law other than FLPMA, or to meet a State recommendation or requirement. The BLM commits to cooperating with the State to analyze applicant-proposed, state-recommended, or state-imposed compensatory mitigation to offset residual impacts. The BLM remains committed to achieving the planning-level management goals and objectives identified in this ROD and the 2015 ARMPA by ensuring GRSG habitat impacts are addressed through implementing mitigating actions consistent with the governing RMP. <u>B- Disturbance Cap</u> In PHMA, manage discrete anthropogenic disturbances so they cover less than 3 percent of 1) PHMA associated with a GRSG population area and 2) within a	(See above.)

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first measured thereafter) at occupied leks from 2 hours before to 2 hours after official sunrise and sunset during breeding season (e.g., while males are strutting). Support the establishment of ambient baseline noise levels for PHMA habitat area leks. Limit project related noise in other PHMA habitats and seasons where it will be expected to reduce functionality of habitats that support associated GRSG populations. As additional research and information emerges, specific new limitations appropriate to the type of projects being considered will be evaluated and appropriate measures will be implemented where necessary to minimize potential for noise impacts on PHMA GRSG population behavioral cycles. <u>F- Tall Structure Restrictions:</u> In PHMA, limit the placement of permanent tall structures within GRSG breeding and nesting habitats. For the purposes of this restriction, a tall structure is any man-made structure that provides for perching/nesting opportunities for predators (e.g., raptors and ravens) that are naturally absent, or that decreases the use of an area by GRSG. A determination as to whether something is considered a tall structure will be made based on local conditions such as existing vegetation or topography. <u>G- Seasonal Restrictions:</u> In PHMA, in coordination with the appropriate State of Utah agency, apply seasonal restrictions during the period specified below to manage discretionary discrete anthropogenic disturbances and uses on public lands to prevent disturbance to GRSG populations and habitat during seasonal life cycle periods as follows: • In breeding (leks), nesting and early brood-rearing habitat from Feb 15 – Jun 15 • In brood rearing habitat from Apr 15 – Aug 15 • In winter habitat from Nov 15 – Mar 15	proposed project analysis area. See Appendix E, Greater Sage-Grouse Disturbance Cap Guidance, for additional information on implementing the disturbance cap, including what is and is not considered disturbance and how to calculate the proposed project analysis area. If the 3 percent disturbance cap is exceeded on all lands (regardless of land ownership) within GRSG PHMA in any given population area (BSU) or within a proposed project analysis area in PHMA, then no further discrete anthropogenic disturbances (subject to applicable laws and regulations, such as the Mining Law of 1872 [as amended], valid existing rights, etc.) will be permitted by the BLM within GRSG PHMA in any given population area (BSU) or the proposed project analysis area until the disturbance has been reduced to less than the cap. However, the 3 percent cap may be exceeded at either scale if a technical team determines that site-specific Greater Sage-Grouse habitat and population information, combined with project design elements indicates the project will improve the condition of Greater Sage-Grouse habitat within the proposed project analysis area or within the PHMA in the population area where the project is located. Factors considered by the team will include Greater Sage-Grouse abundance and trends, movement patterns, habitat amount and quality, extent and alignment of project disturbance, location and density of existing disturbance, project design options and other biological factors. Such exceptions to the 3 percent disturbance cap may only be approved by the BLM Authorized Officer with the concurrence of the State Director. The finding and recommendation shall be made by the technical team, which should consist of, at least, a BLM field biologist, other local Greater Sage-Grouse experts, and biologists and other representatives from the appropriate State of Utah agency. Within designated utility corridors, the 3 percent disturbance cap may be exceeded at the project scale if the site specific NEPA analysis indicates that doing so will improve the condition of Greater Sage-Grouse	(See above.)

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Specific time and distance determinations will be based on site-specific conditions and may be modified due to documented local variations (e.g., higher/lower elevations) or annual climactic fluctuations (e.g., early/late spring and long and/or heavy winter) in order to better protect GRSG, in coordination with the appropriate State of Utah agency. <u>H- Buffers:</u> In undertaking BLM management actions, and consistent with valid and existing rights and applicable law in authorizing third-party actions, the BLM will apply the lek buffer-distances identified in the US Geological Survey Report Conservation Buffer Distance Estimates for Greater Sage-Grouse – A Review (Open File Report 2014-1239; Manier et al. 2014) in accordance with Appendix B, Applying Lek-Buffer Distances. <u>I- Required Design Features/Best Management Practices:</u> In PHMA, apply the RDFs from the applicable sections identified in Appendix C, Required Design Features, when authorizing/permitting site-specific activities/projects for wildland fire management actions, travel and transportation, lands and realty, fluid minerals, nonenergy leasable minerals, coal, mineral materials, and locatable minerals (consistent with applicable law). The applicability and overall effectiveness of each RDF cannot be fully assessed until the project level when the project location and design are known. Because of site-specific circumstances, some RDFs may not apply to some projects and/or may require slight variations. All variations in RDFs will require that at least one of the following be demonstrated in the NEPA analysis associated with the project/activity: • A specific RDF is documented to not be applicable to the site-specific conditions of the project/activity (e.g. due to site limitations or engineering considerations). Economic considerations, such as increased costs, do not necessarily require that an RDF be varied or rendered inapplicable;	habitat in comparison to siting a project outside the designated corridor. This exception is limited to projects which fulfill the use for which the corridors were designated (ex., transmission lines, pipelines) and the designated width of a corridor will not be exceeded as a result of any project co-location. An area with disturbance within GRSG habitat is not excluded from the 3 percent cap until it provides GRSG habitat. The objective of successful restoration of disturbed GRSG seasonal habitats is to provide for the needs of GRSG, which could be evidenced by one of the following: • Vegetative cover is consistent with the GRSG habitat objectives and the ecological site description (Objective SSS-3), or • Monitoring indicates the area is regularly used by GRSG to sustain one or more seasonal habitat requirements (nesting, brood-rearing, winter). Include a schedule in project authorizations for monitoring the status of restoration efforts (e.g., areas of disturbance that meet the restoration criteria). Areas where disturbance would exceed 3 percent after project construction should include annual assessments to prioritize restoration efforts and determine what areas have been restored. Areas of PHMA that were not Greater Sage-Grouse habitat at project initiation would be excluded from the 3 percent cap calculation upon project completion and reclamation, as outlined in the applicable lease or permit. Final restoration success and approval for abandonment for disturbances will be subject to an interdisciplinary review of available monitoring data and final monitoring reports. Consider the likelihood of development of not-yet-constructed surface-disturbing activities—as defined in Table D.2 of the Monitoring Framework (Appendix D of the 2015 ROD/ Approved RMPA)—under valid existing rights prior to authorizing new projects in PHMA.	(See above.)

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• An alternative RDF, state-implemented conservation measure, or plan-level protection is determined to provide equal or better protection for GRSG or its habitat; • A specific RDF will provide no additional protection to GRSG or its habitat.	<u>C- Density of Energy/Mining Facilities</u> Subject to applicable laws, including the Mining Law of 1872, and applicable regulations, and valid existing rights , if the average density of one energy and mining facility per 640 acres (the density cap) is exceeded on all lands (regardless of land ownership) in PHMA within a proposed project analysis area, then no further disturbance from energy or mining facilities will be permitted by BLM: (1) until disturbance in the proposed project analysis area has been reduced to maintain the limit under the cap; or (2) unless the energy or mining facility is collocated into an existing disturbed area (subject to applicable laws and regulations, such as the Mining Law of 1872 [as amended], valid existing rights, etc.); however, the density cap may be exceeded if a project is on non-habitat (see MA-SSS-1 language related to placement of development in non-habitat portions of PHMA), or if the process identified in MA-SSS-3B determines the project will improve the condition of GRSG habitat at the proposed project analysis area or within the PHMA where the project is located through analysis of site-specific GRSG habitat and population information and project design elements. Energy and mining facilities to which this action applies are: • Oil and gas wells and development facilities, • Coal mines, • Wind towers, • Solar fields, • Geothermal wells/developments, and • Active locatable, leasable, and saleable developments. <u>D- Predation</u> In PHMA, eliminate or minimize external food sources for corvids, particularly dumps, or waste transfer facilities. Apply best management practices (BMP) to development activities to reduce opportunities for GRSG predators (e.g., limiting food sources, nest/perches deterrents, and road kill). Apply habitat management practices (e.g. grazing management and vegetation treatments) that decrease the effectiveness of predators.	(See above.)

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(See above.)	When conducting habitat treatments, remove trees that have corvid nests that could impact PHMA nesting and brood-rearing habitat when in compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (e.g., when the nest is unoccupied and outside of migratory bird nesting season). Efforts by other agencies to minimize impacts from predators on the GRSG should be supported and encouraged where needs have been documented. Collaborate with applicable government entities to implement programs to control predator populations of GRSG (e.g., ravens, red fox, badgers, and raccoons). <u>E- Noise Restrictions:</u> In PHMA, limit noise from discrete anthropogenic disturbances, whether during construction, operation, or maintenance, to not exceed 10 decibels above ambient sound levels (as available at the signing of the GRSG RMPA ROD or as first measured thereafter) at occupied leks from 2 hours before to 2 hours after official sunrise and sunset during breeding season (e.g., while males are strutting). Support the establishment of ambient baseline noise levels for PHMA habitat area leks. Limit project related noise in other PHMA habitats and seasons where it will be expected to reduce functionality of habitats that support associated GRSG populations. As additional research and information emerges, specific new limitations appropriate to the type of projects being considered will be evaluated and appropriate measures will be implemented where necessary to minimize potential for noise impacts on PHMA GRSG population behavioral cycles. <u>F- Tall Structure Restrictions:</u> In PHMA, limit the placement of permanent tall structures within GRSG breeding and nesting habitats. For the purposes of this restriction, a tall structure is any man-made structure that provides for perching/nesting opportunities for predators (e.g., raptors and ravens) that are naturally absent, or that decreases the use of an area by GRSG. A determination as	(See above.)

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
(See above.)	to whether something is considered a tall structure will be made based on local conditions such as existing vegetation or topography. <u>G- Seasonal Restrictions:</u> In PHMA, in coordination with the appropriate State of Utah agency, apply seasonal restrictions during the period specified below to manage discretionary discrete anthropogenic disturbances and uses on public lands to prevent disturbance to GRSG populations and habitat during seasonal life cycle periods as follows: • In breeding (leks), nesting and early brood-rearing habitat from Feb 15 – Jun 15 • In brood rearing habitat from Apr 15 – Aug 15 • In winter habitat from Nov 15 – Mar 15 Specific time and distance determinations will be based on site-specific conditions and may be modified due to documented local variations (e.g., higher/lower elevations) or annual climactic fluctuations (e.g., early/late spring and long and/or heavy winter) in order to better protect GRSG, in coordination with the appropriate State of Utah agency. <u>H- Buffers:</u> In undertaking BLM management actions, and consistent with valid and existing rights and applicable law in authorizing third-party actions, the BLM will assess and address impacts within the lek buffer-distances identified in the US Geological Survey Report Conservation Buffer Distance Estimates for Greater Sage-Grouse – A Review (Open File Report 2014-1239; Manier et al. 2014) in accordance with Appendix B, Applying Lek-Buffer Distances. <u>I- Required Design Features/Best Management Practices:</u> In PHMA, apply the RDFs from the applicable sections identified in Appendix C, Required Design Features, when authorizing/permitting site-specific activities/projects for wildland fire management actions, travel and transportation, lands and realty, fluid minerals, nonenergy leasable minerals, coal,	(See above.)

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
(See above.)	mineral materials, and locatable minerals (consistent with applicable law). The applicability and overall effectiveness of each RDF cannot be fully assessed until the project level when the project location and design are known. Because of site-specific circumstances, some RDFs may not apply to some projects and/or may require slight variations. All variations in RDFs will require that at least one of the following be demonstrated in the NEPA analysis associated with the project/activity: • A specific RDF is documented to not be applicable to the site-specific conditions of the project/activity (e.g. due to site limitations or engineering considerations). Economic considerations, such as increased costs, do not necessarily require that an RDF be varied or rendered inapplicable; • An alternative RDF, state-implemented conservation measure, or plan-level protection is determined to provide equal or better protection for GRSG or its habitat; A specific RDF will provide no additional protection to GRSG or its habitat.	(See above.)
MA-SSS-4: In PHMA and in adjacent opportunity areas, maintain, improve and restore GRSG habitat to support GRSG populations and to maintain or enhance connectivity. Vegetation treatments will be applied to meet GRSG habitat objectives and provide additional GRSG habitat, unless there is a conflict with Utah prairie dog, where the landscape will be managed for both species. PHMA boundaries may be adjusted to include additional restored GRSG habitat and habitat identified during survey or inventory work. Changes to maps and associated management will occur through the appropriate BLM planning processes (e.g., plan maintenance or plan amendment), as described in Appendix K.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

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MA-SSS-5: In GHMA, apply the following management to meet the objective of a net conservation gain for discretionary actions that can result in habitat loss and degradation: <u>A- Existing Management:</u> Implement GRSG management actions included in the existing RMPs and project-specific mitigation measures associated with existing decisions. <u>B- Net Conservation Gain:</u> In all GRSG habitat, in undertaking BLM management actions, and, consistent with valid existing rights and applicable law, in authorizing third-party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation, the BLM will require and ensure mitigation that provides a net conservation gain to the species, including accounting for any uncertainty associated with the effectiveness of such mitigation. This will be achieved by avoiding, minimizing, and compensating for impacts by applying beneficial mitigation actions. Exceptions to net conservation gain for GRSG may be made for vegetation treatments to benefit Utah prairie dog. Mitigation will be conducted according to the mitigation framework contained in Appendix F. <u>C- Buffers:</u> In undertaking BLM management actions, and consistent with valid and existing rights and applicable law in authorizing third-party actions, the BLM will apply the lek buffer-distances identified in the US Geological Survey Report Conservation Buffer Distance Estimates for Greater Sage-Grouse – A Review (Open File Report 2014-1239; Manier et al. 2014) in accordance with Appendix B. <u>D- Required Design Features/Best Management Practices:</u> In GHMA, apply the fluid mineral RDFs that are associated with GHMA identified in Appendix C when authorizing/permitting site-specific fluid mineral development activities/projects. The applicability and overall effectiveness of each RDF cannot be fully assessed until	No similar action.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
the project level when the project location and design are known. Because of site-specific circumstances, some RDFs may not apply to some projects and/or may require slight variations. All variations in RDFs will require that at least one of the following be demonstrated in the NEPA analysis associated with the project/activity: • A specific RDF is documented to not be applicable to the site-specific conditions of the project/activity (e.g. due to site limitations or engineering considerations). Economic considerations, such as increased costs, do not necessarily require that an RDF be varied or rendered inapplicable; • An alternative RDF, state-implemented conservation measure, or plan-level protection is determined to provide equal or better protection for GRSG or its habitat; • A specific RDF will provide no additional protection to GRSG or its habitat.	(See above.)	(See above.)
MA-SSS-6 <u>Sage-Grouse Management Outside PHMA/GHMA</u> Proposed projects within State of Utah Sage-Grouse Management Areas (SGMA) and USFWS priority areas for conservation (PAC), as well as adjacent to PHMA outside these areas, will consider impacts on GRSG and implement measures to mitigate impacts when preparing site-specific planning and environmental compliance documents. Outside of PHMA, prior to site-specific authorizations, the BLM will evaluate habitat conditions and may require surveys to determine if the project area contains GRSG habitat (FLPMA, 43 United States Code (USC) 1701 Sec. 201 (a); BLM Manual 6840.04 D3; BLM-M-6840.04 E2). Surveys will be required prior to authorizing discrete anthropogenic disturbances within 4 miles of an occupied lek that is located in PHMA, but only in existing sagebrush.	MA-SSS-6 <u>Sage-Grouse Management Outside PHMA</u> Outside PHMA, implement Greater Sage-Grouse management actions included in the RMPs and project-specific mitigation measures associated with decisions that predated the 2015 amendments. Proposed projects within State of Utah Sage-Grouse Management Areas (SGMA) and USFWS priority areas for conservation (PAC), as well as adjacent to PHMA outside these areas, will consider impacts on GRSG and may implement measures to mitigate impacts on GRSG populations within adjacent PHMA when preparing site-specific planning and environmental compliance documents. Outside of PHMA, but within SGMAs and PACs, avoid removal of sagebrush and minimize development that creates a physical barrier to GRSG movement; these areas may be used by GRSG to connect to other populations or seasonal habitat areas. Exceptions shall be made for vegetation treatments to benefit Utah prairie dog,	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

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If an area is determined to be GRSG habitat (e.g., nesting, brood-rearing, winter, transition), mitigation will be considered as part of the project level NEPA analysis and will be attached as conditions of approval to new discretionary actions, if deemed necessary to protect the habitat (BLM Manual 6840.04 D 5). Measures that may be considered include those identified in Appendix C. Outside of PHMA, but within SGMA and PACs, avoid removal of sagebrush and minimize development that creates a physical barrier to GRSG movement; these areas may be used by GRSG to connect to other populations or seasonal habitat areas. Exceptions shall be made for vegetation treatments to benefit Utah prairie dog, where the landscape will be managed for both species. Outside of PHMA, but within SGMA and PACs, consider noise and permanent structure stipulations around leks. Outside PHMA, portions of State of Utah opportunity areas (see Final EIS Map 2.4) within 4 miles of a lek that is located in PHMA will be managed with the following allocations: • Fluid minerals will be open for leasing with CSU stipulations (noise and tall structures). • Lands ROWs, permits, and leases will be avoided, applying avoidance criteria for noise and tall structures. Do not site wind energy development in opportunity areas within 5 miles from occupied GRSG leks that are in PHMA. Outside of PHMA, avoid and minimize effects from discrete anthropogenic disturbances in areas that have been treated with the intent of improving or creating new GRSG habitat. Evaluate conditions in the treated area to determine if it is providing habitat for GRSG and if additional measures are necessary to protect the habitat.	where the landscape will be managed for both species. Outside of PHMA, but within SGMA and PACs, consider noise and permanent structure stipulations around leks. Outside PHMA, after analyzing the impacts using the buffer distances identified in Appendix B from a lek that is located in PHMA, portions of State of Utah opportunity areas will be managed with the following allocations: • Fluid minerals will be open for leasing with CSU stipulations (noise and tall structures). • Lands ROWs, permits, and leases will be avoided, applying avoidance criteria for noise and tall structures. Avoid siting wind energy development in opportunity areas within the buffer distances identified in Appendix B from occupied GRSG leks that are in PHMA, if the lek buffer analysis as identified in Appendix B shows that siting wind energy development in opportunities areas will impact lek persistence within PHMA. Outside of PHMA, avoid and minimize effects from discrete anthropogenic disturbances in areas that have been treated with the intent of improving or creating new GRSG habitat. Evaluate conditions in the treated area to determine if it is providing habitat for GRSG and if additional measures are necessary to protect the habitat. Outside of PHMA, provide that acres of GRSG seasonal habitat (based on best available maps, then confirmed to be regularly used by Greater Sage-Grouse to sustain one or more seasonal habitat requirements through coordination with the appropriate State of Utah agency and through on-the-ground information) that is lost to habitat degradation actions (Appendix C, Table C.2 of the 2015 ROD/Approved RMPA) are replaced by creating/improving Greater Sage-Grouse habitat within PHMA.	(See above.)

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MA-SSS-7 <u>Adaptive Management</u> This plan establishes soft and hard triggers for both GRSG populations and habitat. The specific triggers and additional detail on the management responses are identified in Appendix I, Adaptive Management. The hard and soft trigger data will be analyzed as soon as it becomes available after the signing of the ROD and then at a minimum, analyzed annually thereafter. If monitoring indicates the soft-trigger is met, the BLM will determine if there is a specific cause or causes that are contributing to the decline. If it is determined that the decline is related to a natural population variation, no specific management actions will be required. However, if BLM management actions are determined to cause or contribute to the decline, the BLM manager will apply measures within their implementation-level discretion to mitigate the decline of populations and/or habitats to the area where the trigger has been met. These measures will apply more conservative or restrictive implementation conservation conditions, terms, or decisions within the agencies' discretion to mitigate the decline of populations and/or habitats. If monitoring indicates the hard trigger is met, a set of specific management actions from the BLM Proposed Plan will immediately be replaced with or adjusted by different management actions in the area where the trigger has been met. Table I.I of Appendix I identifies the management actions from the BLM Proposed Plan, and the corresponding new management actions that will be immediately implemented to the specific area in the event a hard trigger is met. In addition to these specific changes, the BLM will review available and pertinent data for the area, in coordination GRSG biologists from multiple agencies including the appropriate State of Utah agency, USFWS, and NRCS, to determine the causal factor(s) and implement a corrective strategy. The final strategy associated with a hard trigger being met will be the	MA-SSS-7 <u>Adaptive Management</u> This plan establishes soft and hard triggers for both GRSG populations and habitat. The specific triggers and additional detail on the management responses are identified in Appendix I, Adaptive Management. The hard and soft trigger data will be analyzed annually. If monitoring indicates the soft-trigger is met, the BLM will review available and pertinent data, in coordination with GRSG biologists from multiple agencies including the appropriate State of Utah agency, USFS, USFWS, and/or NRCS, to determine the causal factor(s) for the declines within 6 months of identifying that a trigger has been met. If it is determined that the decline is related to a natural population variation, no specific management actions will be required; however, if BLM management actions are determined to cause or contribute to the decline, the BLM will work with the appropriate State of Utah agency and public land users to identify and apply management to slow down or stop the population decline. Such measures would be applied by the BLM manager within their implementation-level discretion to mitigate the decline of populations and/or habitats to the area where the trigger has been met. These measures will apply more conservative or restrictive implementation conservation conditions, terms, or decisions within the agencies' discretion to mitigate the decline of populations and/or habitats. Such measures could also include other management actions which may require the need to amend the RMP to address the situation and modify management. If monitoring indicates the hard trigger is met, the BLM will review available and pertinent data, in coordination with GRSG biologists from multiple agencies including the appropriate State of Utah agency, USFS, USFWS, and/or NRCS, to determine the causal factor(s) for the declines. The BLM and the team will also identify measures needed to address the causal factor(s) and develop a corrective strategy for the area where the trigger has been met. The corrective strategy would include the	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
changes identified in Table I.I of Appendix I, and may also include the need to further amend or revise the RMP to address the situation and modify management accordingly, for the area where the trigger was met.	applicable changes identified in Table I.I of Appendix I that address the causal factor, and could also include other management actions, which may be require the need to amend the RMP to address the situation and modify management. If determining the causal factor and development of the corrective strategy is not completed within 6 months of documenting that the trigger has been met, all the plan level responses identified in Table I.I will be applied until the causal factor analysis is complete. Upon completion of the causal factor analysis any responses that do not address the causal factor(s) would be removed. In developing a corrective strategy, managers may select changes in management that are identified in Table I.I, Specific Management Responses that have already been analyzed for implementation. This table also identifies which decision from the BLM RMPA would be changed. The management identified in the corrective strategy would be implemented until ten-year population trends reflect natural fluctuations anticipated for the area. The BLM would determine the area reflects natural fluctuations in coordination with GRSG biologists from multiple agencies including Forest Service, UDWR, USFWS, and/or NRCS. Upon determination, the management would revert to the RMPA. If all the leks in an area that has met a hard trigger are not active for ten years, becoming unoccupied by definition, the PHMA designation and all its associated management would be removed since there is no longer a GRSG population for which management should be prioritized. For any area that has met a soft or hard trigger, the BLM, the appropriate State of Utah agency, and other members of the technical team will annually review monitoring data regarding population and habitat trends to verify that management actions implemented to mitigate declines are being successful. If monitoring indicates continued declines, the causal factor analysis will be reviewed, updated if needed, and applicable additional management would be identified and implemented.	(See above.)

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
VEGETATION (VEG)	VEGETATION (VEG)	VEGETATION (VEG)
Objectives:	Objectives:	Objectives:
Objective VEG-I: In SFA and PHMA, the desired condition is to maintain all lands ecologically capable of producing sagebrush (but no less than 70 percent) with a minimum of 15 percent sagebrush cover or as consistent with specific ecological site conditions; exceptions to this objective shall be made where GRSG habitat and Utah prairie dog occur on the same landscape, which will be managed for both species. The attributes necessary to sustain these habitats are described in Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health (BLM Tech Ref 1734-6).	Objective VEG-I: In PHMA, the desired condition is to maintain all lands ecologically capable of producing sagebrush (but no less than 70 percent) with a minimum of 15 percent sagebrush cover or as consistent with specific ecological site conditions; exceptions to this objective shall be made where GRSG habitat and Utah prairie dog occur on the same landscape, which will be managed for both species. The attributes necessary to sustain these habitats are described in Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health (BLM Tech Ref 1734-6).	No change proposed.
Management Actions (MA):	Management Actions (MA):	Management Actions (MA):
MA-VEG-I: In PHMA, where necessary to meet GRSG habitat objectives, treat areas to maintain and expand healthy GRSG habitat (e.g., conifer encroachment areas and annual grasslands). In PHMA, prioritize implementation of restoration/treatment projects based on environmental variables that improve chances for project success in areas most likely to benefit GRSG (e.g., proximity to existing GRSG populations, ecological site potential, and resistance and resilience), documented in Appendix H, Fire and Invasives Assessment Tool. In PHMA, prioritize restoration in seasonal habitats that are identified as the limiting factor for GRSG distribution and/or abundance. Apply seasonal restrictions to avoid treating areas during seasons of use, as needed, when implementing vegetation treatments (see MA-SSS-3G). In PHMA, avoid sagebrush reduction treatments within GRSG nesting and winter habitat unless the project plan and associated NEPA document demonstrate a biological need for the treatment to maintain or improve habitat for the GRSG population, or unless the treatment is for Utah prairie dog recovery where the needs of both species will be addressed on the landscape. Coordinate with the appropriate State of Utah agency and the	MA-VEG-I: In PHMA, where necessary to meet GRSG habitat objectives, treat areas to maintain and expand healthy GRSG habitat (e.g., conifer encroachment areas and invasive annual grasslands). In PHMA, prioritize implementation of restoration/treatment projects based on environmental variables that improve chances for project success in areas most likely to benefit GRSG (e.g., proximity to existing GRSG populations, ecological site potential, and resistance and resilience), documented in Appendix H, Fire and Invasives Assessment Tool. In PHMA, prioritize restoration in seasonal habitats that are identified as the limiting factor for GRSG distribution and/or abundance. Apply seasonal restrictions to avoid treating areas during seasons of use, as needed, when implementing vegetation treatments (see MA-SSS-3G). In PHMA, avoid sagebrush reduction treatments within GRSG nesting and winter habitat unless the project plan and associated NEPA document demonstrate a biological need for the treatment to maintain or improve habitat for the GRSG population, or unless the treatment is for Utah prairie dog recovery where the needs of both species will be addressed on the landscape. Coordinate with the appropriate State of Utah agency and the USFWS prior	No change proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
USFWS prior to conducting sagebrush treatment projects within nesting and winter habitat. Use collaborative planning efforts to develop and implement habitat restoration projects. Expertise and ideas from entities such as local landowners, local GRSG working groups, and other federal, state, county, and private organizations shall be solicited and considered in development of restoration projects. In PHMA, implement project design features that will contribute to the most favorable conditions for success when planning and implementing restoration/vegetation treatment projects. Examples include, but are not limited to the following: • Review of available plant species and their adaptation to the site when developing seed mixes. • The need to reduce non-native annual grass densities and competition through herbicide, targeted grazing, tillage, etc. • Assessment of on-site vegetation to ascertain if enough desirable perennial vegetation exists to consider the use of passive restoration techniques. • Use of site preparation techniques that retain existing desirable vegetation. • Use of “mother plant” techniques or planting of satellite populations of desirable plants to serve as seed sources. • The need for post-treatment control of non-native annual grass and other invasive species. Upon completion of vegetation treatments, monitor and manage the project area to ensure long-term success, including persistence of seeded species and/or other treatment components, such as implementing maintenance treatments.	to conducting sagebrush treatment projects within nesting and winter habitat. Use collaborative planning efforts to develop and implement habitat restoration projects. Expertise and ideas from entities such as local landowners, local GRSG working groups, and other federal, state, county, and private organizations shall be solicited and considered in development of restoration projects. In PHMA, implement project design features that will contribute to the most favorable conditions for success when planning and implementing restoration/vegetation treatment projects. Examples include, but are not limited to the following: • Review of available plant species and their adaptation to the site when developing seed mixes. • The need to reduce non-native annual grass densities and competition through herbicide, targeted grazing, tillage, etc. • Assessment of on-site vegetation to ascertain if enough desirable perennial vegetation exists to consider the use of passive restoration techniques. • Use of site preparation techniques that retain existing desirable vegetation. • Use of “mother plant” techniques or planting of satellite populations of desirable plants to serve as seed sources. • The need for post-treatment control of non-native annual grass and other invasive species. Upon completion of vegetation treatments, monitor and manage the project area to ensure long-term success, including persistence of seeded species and/or other treatment components, such as implementing maintenance treatments.	(See above.)

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MA-VEG-2: Remove conifers encroaching into sagebrush habitats, in a manner that considers tribal cultural values. When conducting conifer treatments: • Prioritize treatments closest to occupied GRSG habitats and near occupied leks, and where juniper encroachment is phase I or phase II. • Treat areas in late Phase II or Phase III condition to create movement corridors, connect habitats, or to break up continuous, hazardous fuels and reduce the potential for catastrophic fire. • Prioritize methods to reduce conifer canopy cover to those that maintain the understory vegetation as the preferred treatment methods (e.g., mechanical, lop and scatter). • Require that vegetation treatments conducted within 0.6 miles of a lek include an objective of reducing conifer, where technically feasible, to less than 5 percent canopy cover, with preference for complete removal. • Include stipulations to avoid removing old-growth pinyon/juniper stands (e.g., Tausch et al. 2009; Miller et al. 1999). • Use of site-specific analysis and tools like the Vegetation Dynamics Development Tool and the fire and invasives assessment tool report (Chambers et al. 2014) will help refine the location for specific areas to be treated.	MA-VEG-2: Remove conifers encroaching into sagebrush habitats, in a manner that considers tribal cultural values. When conducting conifer treatments: • Prioritize treatments closest to occupied GRSG habitats and near occupied leks, and where juniper encroachment is phase I or phase II. • Treat areas in late Phase II or Phase III condition to create movement corridors, connect habitats, or to break up continuous, hazardous fuels and reduce the potential for catastrophic fire. • Prioritize methods to reduce conifer canopy cover to those that maintain the understory vegetation as the preferred treatment methods (e.g., mechanical, lop and scatter). • When conducting habitat treatments, remove trees that have corvid nests that could impact PHMA nesting and brood-rearing habitat when in compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (e.g., when the nest is unoccupied and outside of migratory bird nesting season). • Require that vegetation treatments conducted within 0.6 miles of a lek include an objective of reducing conifer, where technically feasible, to less than 5 percent canopy cover, with preference for complete removal. • Include stipulations to avoid removing old-growth pinyon/juniper stands (e.g., Tausch et al. 2009; Miller et al. 1999). • Use of site-specific analysis and tools like the Vegetation Dynamics Development Tool and the fire and invasives assessment tool report (Chambers et al. 2014) will help refine the location for specific areas to be treated.	No change proposed.
MA-VEG-3: In PHMA manage wet meadows to maintain a component of perennial forbs with diverse species richness relative to site potential (e.g., reference state) to facilitate brood rearing. Also conserve or enhance these wet meadow complexes to maintain or increase amount of edge and cover within that edge.	MA-VEG-3: In PHMA manage riparian areas for proper functioning condition. In PHMA manage wet meadows to maintain a component of perennial forbs with diverse species richness relative to site potential (e.g., reference state) to facilitate brood rearing. Also conserve or enhance these wet meadow complexes to maintain or increase amount of edge and cover within that edge.	No change proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MA-VEG-4: In PHMA, include GRSG habitat objectives in restoration/treatment projects. Include short-term and long-term habitat conditions in treatment objectives, including specific objectives for the establishment of sagebrush cover and height, as well as cover and heights for understory perennial grasses and forbs necessary for GRSG seasonal habitats (see Objective SSS-3). Make meeting the GRSG objectives for the restoration/treatment project one of the primary priorities for the project and subsequent land uses, recognizing that managing for other special status species may result in treatment objectives that may not meet GRSG seasonal habitat objectives (e.g., winter habitat cover requirements versus creation of Utah prairie dog habitat). Where GRSG habitat overlaps with that of federally listed threatened or endangered species (e.g., Utah prairie dogs), coordinate with species-specific experts to develop conservation and recovery objectives and allow habitat treatments that will benefit both species.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MA-VEG-5: In PHMA, prioritize the use of native seeds for restoration based on availability, adaptation (ecological site potential), and probability of success. Where probability of success or adapted seed availability is low, desirable non-native seeds may be used as long as they support GRSG habitat objectives. Re-establishment of appropriate sagebrush species/subspecies and important understory plants, relative to site potential, should be the principle objective for rehabilitation efforts.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MA-VEG-6: In PHMA, design post restoration management to ensure long term persistence. This could include changes in livestock grazing management, wild horse and burro management and travel management, etc., to achieve and maintain the desired condition of the restoration effort that benefits GRSG, as well as monitoring and maintaining the treated area.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MA-VEG-7: In PHMA, limit commercial seed or live plant collection to levels that ensure long-term maintenance of the GRSG habitat objectives. Locations, species allowed for collection, and limits on the amounts to be collected will be developed on a case-by-case basis following environmental review of annual site-specific conditions. Commercial collection during sensitive seasonal periods (see MA-SSS-3G) will include mitigation, developed to reflect the site-specific conditions on the ground, that could include, but is not necessarily limited to, restrictions on the timing and method of collection activities, limiting the number of individuals collecting, providing portions of collected seeds for use in local restoration projects, etc.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MA-VEG-8: In PHMA, allow for seed collection and use in restoration/reclamation activities. Prioritize use of seed from areas as close as possible to where the seed will be used to capture local adaptations.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MA-VEG-9: In PHMA, diversify the perennial grass and forb components through additional seeding in areas where historical seedings (e.g., crested wheatgrass) have been recolonized by sagebrush.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MA-VEG-10: Follow the applicable and technically feasible RDFs in Appendix C for vegetation projects/activities (fuels management) at the site-level unless at least one of the following can be demonstrated in the NEPA analyses associated with the project/activity: • A specific RDF is documented to not be applicable to the site-specific conditions of the project/activity; • An alternative RDF, state-implemented conservation measure, or plan-level protection is determined to provide equal or better protection for GRSG or its habitat; • A specific RDF will provide no additional protection to GRSG or its habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MA-VEG-11: In PHMA, design post Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation/Burn Area Emergency Rehabilitation management to ensure long term persistence of seeded or pre-burn native plants. This may require temporary or long-term changes in livestock grazing, wild horse and burro, and travel management, etc., to achieve and maintain the desired condition of Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation projects to benefit GRSG (Eiswerth and Shonkwiler 2006). Monitor and control invasive vegetation post-wildfire for at least 3 years.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
<u>Integrated Invasive Species Management</u> MA-VEG-12: In PHMA, integrated Vegetation Management will be used to control, suppress, and eradicate noxious and invasive species per BLM Handbook H-1740-2.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MA-VEG-13: In PHMA, treatments of Mormon cricket outbreaks will be collaborated with partners at the federal, state, and local levels to maintain and enhance GRSG habitats.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MA-VEG-14: Treat areas that contain cheatgrass and other invasive or noxious species to minimize competition and favor establishment of desired species.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
FIRE AND FUELS MANAGEMENT (FIRE)	FIRE AND FUELS MANAGEMENT (FIRE)	—
Management Actions (MA):	Management Actions (MA):	—
MA-FIRE-1: In collaboration with the USFWS and relevant state agencies, complete and maintain GRSG Landscape Wildland Fire and Invasive Species Habitat Assessments to prioritize at risk habitats, and identify fuels management, preparedness, suppression and restoration priorities necessary to maintain sagebrush habitat to support interconnecting GRSG populations. These assessments and subsequent assessment updates will also be a collaborative effort to take into account other GRSG priorities identified in this plan. Appendix H describes a minimal framework example and suggested approach for this assessment. Implementation actions will be tiered to the local GRSG Landscape Wildland Fire and Invasive Species Assessment, using best available science related to the conservation of GRSG. In collaboration with USFWS and relevant state agencies, BLM planning units will identify annual treatment needs for wildfire and invasive species management as identified in local unit level Landscape Wildfire and Invasive Species Assessments. Annual treatment needs will be coordinated across state/regional scales and across jurisdictional boundaries for long-term conservation of GRSG. Annually complete a review of landscape assessment implementation efforts with appropriate USFWS and state agency personnel.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MA-FIRE-3: In PHMA, fuel treatments will be designed through an interdisciplinary process to expand, enhance, maintain, or protect GRSG habitat. • In collaboration with USFWS and relevant state agencies, BLM planning units with large blocks of GRSG habitat will develop, using the assessment process described in Appendix H, a fuels management strategy which considers an up-to-date fuels profile, land use plan direction, current and potential habitat fragmentation, sagebrush and GRSG ecological factors, and active vegetation management steps to provide critical breaks in fuel continuity, where appropriate. When developing this strategy, planning units will consider the risk of increased habitat fragmentation from a proposed action versus the risk of large scale fragmentation posed by wildfires if the action is not taken. • Use green strips and/or fuel breaks to protect GRSG habitat from fire events. • When possible, locate fuel breaks along existing roads, ROWs, and other suitable topographic or natural features (e.g., areas devoid of vegetation, rock outcrops). • Avoid constructing fuel breaks through large areas of intact GRSG habitat, unless the associated NEPA document demonstrates a biological need for the fuel break to maintain or protect habitat for the GRSG population. Coordinate with the appropriate State of Utah agency and the USFWS prior to constructing fuel breaks within nesting and winter habitat. • Using an interdisciplinary approach, a full range of fuel reduction techniques will be available. Fuel reduction techniques such as conifer reduction, grazing, prescribed fire, chemical, biological, and mechanical treatments may be acceptable, given site-specific variables. • Remove encroaching conifer stands as a fuels management tool, where environmental review documents it protects or improves GRSG habitat.	MA-FIRE-3: In PHMA, fuel treatments will be designed through an interdisciplinary process to expand, enhance, maintain, or protect GRSG habitat. • In collaboration with USFWS and relevant state agencies, BLM planning units with large blocks of GRSG habitat will develop, using the assessment process described in Appendix H, a fuels management strategy which considers an up-to-date fuels profile, land use plan direction, current and potential habitat fragmentation, sagebrush and GRSG ecological factors, and active vegetation management steps to provide critical breaks in fuel continuity, where appropriate. When developing this strategy, planning units will consider the risk of increased habitat fragmentation from a proposed action versus the risk of large scale fragmentation posed by wildfires if the action is not taken. • Use green strips and/or fuel breaks to protect GRSG habitat from fire events. • When possible, locate fuel breaks along existing roads, ROWs, and other suitable topographic or natural features (e.g., areas devoid of vegetation, rock outcrops). • Avoid constructing fuel breaks through large areas of intact GRSG habitat, unless the associated NEPA document demonstrates a biological need for the fuel break to maintain or protect habitat for the GRSG population. Coordinate with the appropriate State of Utah agency and the USFWS prior to constructing fuel breaks within nesting and winter habitat. • Using an interdisciplinary approach, a full range of fuel reduction techniques will be available. Fuel reduction techniques such as conifer reduction, targeted livestock grazing, prescribed fire, chemical, biological, and mechanical treatments may be acceptable, given site-specific variables. • Remove encroaching conifer stands as a fuels management tool, where environmental review documents it protects or improves GRSG habitat. • Prioritize the use of native seeds for fuels management treatment based on availability, adaptation (site potential), and probability of success. Where probability	No change proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
• Prioritize the use of native seeds for fuels management treatment based on availability, adaptation (site potential), and probability of success. Where probability of success for native seed availability is low, desirable non-native seeds may be used to meet GRSG habitat objectives to trend toward restoring the fire regime. When reseeding, use fire resistant native and desirable non-native species, as appropriate, to provide for fire breaks. • Upon project completion, monitor and manage fuels projects to ensure long-term success, including persistence of seeded species and/or other treatment components, such as implementing maintenance actions. Control invasive vegetation post-treatment. • Apply seasonal restrictions, as needed, for implementing fuels management treatments according to the type of seasonal habitats present (see MA-SSS-3G). In PHMA, avoid sagebrush reduction fuels treatments within GRSG nesting and winter habitat unless the project plan and associated NEPA document demonstrate a biological need for the treatment to maintain or improve habitat for the GRSG population, or unless the treatment is for Utah prairie dog recovery where the needs of both species will be addressed on the landscape. Treatments in winter habitat should be designed to maintain sagebrush, especially tall sagebrush (sagebrush capable of standing above heavier than normal snowfall), which will be available to GRSG above snow during a severe winter, considering the needs of Utah prairie dog recovery. Prior to conducting fuels treatments in winter habitat, coordinate with the appropriate State of Utah agency and the USFWS to design the treatment to strategically reduce wildfire risk around or in the winter habitat.	of success for native seed availability is low, desirable non-native seeds may be used to meet GRSG habitat objectives to trend toward restoring the fire regime. When reseeding, use fire resistant native and desirable non-native species, as appropriate, to provide for fire breaks. • Upon project completion, monitor and manage fuels projects to ensure long-term success, including persistence of seeded species and/or other treatment components, such as implementing maintenance actions. Control invasive vegetation post-treatment. • Apply seasonal restrictions, as needed, for implementing fuels management treatments according to the type of seasonal habitats present (see MA-SSS-3G). In PHMA, avoid sagebrush reduction fuels treatments within GRSG nesting and winter habitat unless the project plan and associated NEPA document demonstrate a biological need for the treatment to maintain or improve habitat for the GRSG population, or unless the treatment is for Utah prairie dog recovery where the needs of both species will be addressed on the landscape. Treatments in winter habitat should be designed to maintain sagebrush, especially tall sagebrush (sagebrush capable of standing above heavier than normal snowfall), which will be available to GRSG above snow during a severe winter, considering the needs of Utah prairie dog recovery. Prior to conducting fuels treatments in winter habitat, coordinate with the appropriate State of Utah agency and the USFWS to design the treatment to strategically reduce wildfire risk around or in the winter habitat.	(See above.)

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MA-FIRE-4: If prescribed fire is used in GRSG habitat, the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan will address: • why alternative techniques were not selected as a viable options; • how GRSG goals and objectives will be met by its use; • how the COT Report objectives will be addressed and met; • a risk assessment to address how potential threats to GRSG habitat will be minimized. Prescribed fire as a vegetation or fuels treatment shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Prescribed fire may be used to meet specific fuels objectives that will protect GRSG habitat in PHMA (e.g., creation of fuel breaks that will disrupt the fuel continuity across the landscape in stands where annual invasive grasses are a minor component in the understory, burning slash piles from conifer reduction treatments, used as a component with other treatment methods to combat annual grasses and restore native plant communities), as well as managing the landscape for GRSG in concert with Utah prairie dog. Prescribed fire in known winter range shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Any prescribed fire in winter habitat will need to be designed to strategically reduce wildfire risk around and/or in the winter range and designed to protect winter range habitat quality.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MA-FIRE-5: In PHMA, during fuels management project design, consider the use of targeted livestock grazing to strategically reduce fine fuels and, if used, implement grazing management that will accomplish this objective. If implementing targeted grazing, implement measures to minimize impacts on native perennial grasses.	No similar action.	No change proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
<u>Pre-Suppression</u> MA-FIRE-6: Follow the applicable and technically feasible RDFs in Appendix C for fire and fuels management at the site-level unless at least one of the following can be demonstrated in the NEPA analyses associated with the project/activity: • A specific RDF is documented to not be applicable to the site-specific conditions of the project/activity; • An alternative RDF, state-implemented conservation measure, or plan-level protection is determined to provide equal or better protection for GRSG or its habitat; • A specific RDF will provide no additional protection to GRSG or its habitat. Implement a coordinated inter-agency approach to fire restrictions based upon National Fire Danger Rating System thresholds (fuel conditions, drought conditions and predicted weather patterns) for GRSG habitat. Develop wildfire prevention plans that explain the resource value of GRSG habitat and include fire prevention messages and actions to reduce human-caused ignitions.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
<u>Suppression</u> MA-FIRE-7: Follow the applicable and technically feasible RDFs in Appendix C for fire and fuels management at the site-level unless at least one of the following can be demonstrated in the NEPA analyses associated with the project/activity: • A RDF is documented to not be applicable to the site-specific conditions of the project/activity; • An alternative RDF, state-implemented conservation measure, or plan-level protection is determined to provide equal or better protection for GRSG or its habitat; • A specific RDF will provide no additional protection to GRSG or its habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MA-FIRE-8: The protection of human life is the single, overriding priority. Setting priorities among protecting human communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources will be done based on the values to be protected, human health and safety, and the costs of protection. GRSG habitat in PHMA will be prioritized commensurate with property values and other critical habitat to be protected, with the goal to restore, enhance, and maintain areas suitable for GRSG across the range of GRSG habitat consistent with LUP direction. PHMA will be viewed as more valuable than GHMA when priorities are established. When suppression resources are widely available, maximum efforts will be placed on limiting fire growth in GHMA polygons as well. These priority areas will be further refined following completion of the GRSG Landscape Wildland Fire Invasive Species Habitat Assessments described in Appendix H. In GHMA or areas where treatment/seeding has occurred to improve habitat, prioritize suppression where wildfires threaten adjacent PHMA.	MA-FIRE-8: The protection of human life is the single, overriding priority. Setting priorities among protecting human communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources will be done based on the values to be protected, human health and safety, and the costs of protection. GRSG habitat in PHMA will be prioritized commensurate with property values and other critical habitat to be protected, with the goal to restore, enhance, and maintain areas suitable for GRSG across the range of GRSG habitat consistent with LUP direction. PHMA will be viewed as more valuable than non-PHMA when priorities are established. When suppression resources are widely available, maximum efforts will be placed on limiting fire growth outside and adjacent to PHMA polygons as well. These priority areas will be further refined following completion of the GRSG Landscape Wildland Fire Invasive Species Habitat Assessments described in Appendix H. Outside PHMA or areas where treatment/seeding has occurred to improve habitat, prioritize suppression where wildfires threaten adjacent PHMA.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MA-FIRE-9: Within acceptable risk levels use a full range of fire management strategies and tactics, including the management of wildfires to achieve resource objectives, across the range of GRSG habitat consistent with LUP direction. In PHMA, burnout operations areas should be avoided by constructing direct fire lines, whenever safe and practical to do so.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
LIVESTOCK GRAZING/RANGE MANAGEMENT (LG)	LIVESTOCK GRAZING/RANGE MANAGEMENT (LG)	LIVESTOCK GRAZING/RANGE MANAGEMENT (LG)
Management Actions (MA):	Management Actions (MA):	Management Actions (MA):
MA-LG-1: PHMA and GHMA will be available for livestock grazing (Figure 2-3, Livestock Grazing [Appendix A]). Active animal unit months (AUMs) for livestock grazing will be 329,521 on BLM lands. Make adjustments to permitted AUMs consistent with regulation and the remaining grazing direction. In addition, on an annual basis livestock numbers and the season of use can be adjusted within the terms and conditions of the permit. Make adjustments to permitted use and annual adjustments to levels of livestock use consistent with regulation and the direction identified below where livestock grazing is identified as a causal factor to not meeting standards or habitat objectives.	No similar action. [Meaning the presence of GRSG habitat management areas does not affect the determination of whether or not an area is available for livestock grazing or the active AUMs.]	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MA-LG-2: The BLM will prioritize (1) the review of grazing permits/leases, in particular to determine if modification is necessary prior to renewal, and (2) the processing of grazing permits/leases in SFA first followed by PHMA outside SFA. In setting workload priorities, precedence will be given to existing permits/leases in these areas not meeting Land Health Standards, with focus on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows. The BLM may use other criteria for prioritization to respond to urgent natural resource concerns (ex., fire) and legal obligations.	No similar action.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MA-LG-3: In PHMA, consult, cooperate, and collaborate with other land owners and management agencies (e.g., private and SITLA) to develop plans which provide for landscape level approaches to habitat improvement. Manage unfenced private and SITLA lands within a grazing allotment that are under exchange of use agreements or percent public land use as a single unit that will have the same management as the public lands.	No similar action.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MA-LG-4: Evaluate Utah's Rangeland Health Standards and process grazing permits. Focus monitoring and management activities on allotments found not to be achieving Utah's Rangeland Health Standards where livestock grazing is identified as a causal factor and that have the best opportunities for conserving, enhancing or restoring habitat for GRSG. Use ecological site descriptions and/or other appropriate information to determine the desired plant community within proper functioning ecological processes for conducting land health assessments to evaluate the achievement or non-achievement of rangeland health standards.	No similar action.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MA-LG-5: In PHMA and GHMA, conduct land health assessments that include indicators and measurements of structure, condition, composition, etc., of vegetation specific to achieving GRSG habitat objectives (Objective SSS-3), including within wetlands and riparian areas. Prioritize land health assessments in SFA, followed by PHMA outside of the SFA. Conduct land health assessments at the watershed scale and use the GRSG habitat objectives when assessing the applicable standard in GRSG habitats.	No similar action.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MA-LG-6: In PHMA, when livestock management practices are determined to not be compatible with meeting or making progress towards achievable habitat objectives following appropriate consultation, cooperating and coordination, implement changes in grazing management through grazing authorization modifications, or allotment management plan implementation. Potential modifications include, but are not limited to, changes in: • Season or timing of use; • Numbers of livestock; • Distribution of livestock use; • Duration and/or level of use; • Kind of livestock (e.g., cattle, sheep, horses, or goats); and • Grazing schedules (including rest or deferment). *Not in priority order The NEPA analysis for renewals and modifications of livestock grazing permits/leases that include lands within SFA and PHMA will include specific management thresholds based on Table 2, Land Health Standards (43 CFR, Part 4180.2), and ecological site potential, and one or more defined responses that will allow the authorizing officer to make adjustments to livestock grazing that have already been subjected to NEPA analysis. Adjustments to meet seasonal GRSG habitat requirements could include those items identified in the list above.	MA-LG-6: In PHMA, when an area is not meeting or making progress towards achievable habitat objectives and Land Health Standards, and the causal factor is livestock grazing (i.e., improper livestock grazing), implement changes in grazing management through grazing authorization modifications, or allotment management plan implementation. Potential modifications include, but are not limited to, changes in: • Season or timing of use; • Numbers of livestock; • Distribution of livestock use; • Duration and/or level of use; • Kind of livestock (e.g., cattle, sheep, horses, or goats); and • Grazing schedules (including rest or deferment). *Not in priority order When improper livestock grazing is the causal factor for not meeting or making progress towards achievable habitat objectives and Land Health Standards, the NEPA analysis for renewals and modifications of livestock grazing permits/leases that include lands within PHMA will analyze multiple potential modifications (e.g., alternatives from the list above) that address the reasons for not meeting, allowing the authorizing officer to make adjustments to livestock grazing that have already been subjected to NEPA analysis. Adjustments to meet seasonal GRSG habitat requirements could include those items identified in the list above.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MA-LG-7: In PHMA, during drought periods, prioritize evaluating effects of the drought relative to GRSG needs for food and cover. Initiate emergency management measures (e.g. delaying turnout, adjusting the amount and/or duration of livestock grazing, implement other terms of the permit) during times of drought to protect GRSG habitat, in accordance with Instruction Memorandum 2013-094 (Resource Management During Drought), or other agency policies. Implement post-drought management to allow for vegetation recovery that meets GRSG needs.	No similar action.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MA-LG-8: In PHMA, manage riparian areas and wet meadows for proper functioning condition.	No similar action.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MA-LG-9: In PHMA, assess livestock grazing in riparian and meadow complexes and ensure recovery or maintenance of appropriate vegetation and water quality. Where recovery or maintenance is not occurring and the causal factor is livestock grazing, reduce pressure on riparian or wet meadow vegetation used by GRSG in the summer by adjusting grazing management practices (e.g., use fencing/herding techniques, or changes in seasonal use or livestock distribution). Allotments within SFA, followed by those within PHMA, and focusing on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows, will be prioritized for field checks to help ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the grazing permits. Field checks could include monitoring for actual use, utilization, and use supervision.	No similar action.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MA-LG-10: In PHMA, limit authorization of new water developments to projects that have a neutral effect or are beneficial to GRSG habitat (such as by shifting livestock use away from critical areas). New developments that divert surface water must be designed to maintain riparian or wet meadow vegetation and hydrology to meet GRSG needs.	MA-LG-10: In PHMA, manage existing and new water developments to have a neutral or beneficial effect to GRSG habitat.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MA-LG-11: In PHMA, evaluate existing water developments (springs, seeps, etc., and their associated pipelines) to determine if modifications are necessary to maintain or improve riparian areas and GRSG habitat. Make modifications where necessary, considering impacts on other water uses when such considerations are neutral or beneficial to GRSG.	No similar action.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MA-LG-12: In PHMA, ensure that vegetation treatments conserve, enhance or restore GRSG habitat (this includes treatments that benefit livestock).	No similar action.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MA-LG-13: In PHMA, evaluate the role of existing seedings that are currently composed of primarily introduced perennial grasses to determine if they should be restored to sagebrush or habitat of higher quality for GRSG. If existing seedings provide value in conserving or enhancing GRSG habitats, then no restoration will be necessary. Assess the compatibility of these seedings for GRSG habitat during the land health assessments.	No similar action.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MA-LG-14: In PHMA, design new structural range improvements to have a neutral effect or conserve, enhance, or restore GRSG habitat through an improved grazing management system relative to GRSG objectives. Structural range improvements, in this context, include but are not limited to: cattle guards, fences, exclosures, corrals or other livestock handling structures; pipelines, troughs, storage tanks (including moveable tanks used in livestock water hauling), windmills, ponds/reservoirs, solar panels and spring developments. Potential for invasive species establishment or increase following construction must be considered in the project planning process and monitored and treated post-construction.	No similar action.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MA-LG-15: In PHMA, evaluate existing structural range improvements to make sure they have a neutral effect or conserve, enhance or restore GRSG habitat.	No similar action.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MA-LG-16: To reduce outright GRSG strikes and mortality, remove, modify or mark fences in high risk areas (Stevens et al. 2012) based on proximity to lek (e.g., within 1.2 miles of a lek), lek size, and topography, or as latest science indicates. Prioritize actions in SFA first, then PHMA. Employ NRCS fence collision risk tool (NRCS/CEAP Conservation Insight Publication “Applying the Sage Grouse Fence Collision Risk Tool to Reduce Bird Strikes”).	MA-LG-16: To reduce outright GRSG strikes and mortality, remove, modify or mark fences in high risk areas (Stevens et al. 2012) based on proximity to lek (e.g., within 1.2 miles of a lek), lek size, and topography, or as latest science indicates. Employ NRCS fence collision risk tool (NRCS/CEAP Conservation Insight Publication “Applying the Sage Grouse Fence Collision Risk Tool to Reduce Bird Strikes”).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MA-LG-17: In PHMA, monitor for and treat noxious weeds and treat invasive species where needed, associated with existing range improvements.	No similar action.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MA-LG-18: At the time a permittee or lessee voluntarily relinquishes a permit or lease, the BLM will consider whether the public lands where that permitted use was authorized should remain available for livestock grazing or be used for other resource management objectives, such as reserve common allotments or fire breaks. This does not apply to or impact grazing preference transfers, which are addressed in 43 CFR, Part 41.10.2-3.	No similar action.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
WILD HORSES AND BURROS (WHB)	WILD HORSES AND BURROS (WHB)	—
Management Actions (MA):	Management Actions (MA):	—
MA-WHB-1: Manage HMAs in GRSG habitat within established appropriate management level ranges to achieve and maintain GRSG habitat objectives (Objective SSS-3).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MA-WHB-2: Complete rangeland health assessments for HMAs containing GRSG habitat using an interdisciplinary team of specialists (e.g. range, wildlife, and riparian). The priorities for conducting assessments are: 1. HMAs containing PHMA; 2. HMAs containing only GHMA; 3. HMAs containing sagebrush habitat outside of PHMA and GHMA mapped habitat; and 4. HMAs without GRSG habitat.	MA-WHB-2: Complete rangeland health assessments for HMAs containing GRSG habitat using an interdisciplinary team of specialists (e.g. range, wildlife, and riparian). The priorities for conducting assessments are: 1. HMAs containing PHMA; 2. HMAs containing sagebrush habitat outside of PHMA mapped habitat; and 3. HMAs without GRSG habitat.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MA-WHB-3: Prioritize gathers and population growth suppression techniques in HMAs in GRSG habitat, unless removals are necessary in other areas to address higher priority environmental issues, including herd health impacts.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MA-WHB-4: In PHMA, assess and adjust appropriate management levels through the NEPA process within HMAs when wild horses or burros are identified as a significant causal factor in not meeting land health standards, even if current appropriate management levels are not being exceeded.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MA-WHB-5: In PHMA, monitor the effects of WHB use in relation to GRSG seasonal habitat objectives on an annual basis to help determine future management actions.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MA-WHB-6: Develop or amend herd management plans to incorporate GRSG habitat objectives and management considerations for all HMAs within GRSG habitat, with an emphasis placed on PHMA.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MA-WHB-7: Consider removals or exclusion of wild horses/burros during or immediately following emergency situations (such as fire, floods, and drought) to facilitate meeting GRSG habitat objectives where HMAs overlap with GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MA-WHB-8: When conducting NEPA analysis for wild horse/burro management activities, water developments, or other rangeland improvements for wild horses, address the direct and indirect effect on GRSG populations and habitat. Implement any water developments or rangeland improvements using the criteria identified for domestic livestock.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MA-WHB-9: Coordinate with professionals from other federal and state agencies, researchers at universities, and others to utilize and evaluate new management tools (e.g., population growth suppression, inventory techniques, and telemetry) for implementing the wild horse and burro program.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MINERALS RESOURCES (MR)	MINERALS RESOURCES (MR)	—
Management Actions (MA):	Management Actions (MA):	—
MA-MR-1: Allow exploration for all minerals (e.g., geophysical, trenching, drilling, etc.) within mapped occupied GRSG habitat areas that are not closed to leasing, permitting, etc., to obtain exploratory information. In areas where leasing, permitting, etc. is still available, minerals exploration shall be subject to the pertinent management for discretionary activities in PHMA (MA-SSS-3) and GHMA (MA-SSS-5).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Fluid Minerals	Fluid Minerals	Fluid Minerals
Objectives:	Objectives:	Objectives:
Objective MR-1: Priority will be given to leasing and development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, outside of PHMA and GHMA. When analyzing leasing and authorizing development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, in PHMA and GHMA, and subject to applicable stipulations for the conservation of GRSG, priority will be given to development in non-habitat areas first and then in the least suitable habitat for GRSG. The implementation of these priorities will be subject to valid existing rights and any applicable law or regulation, including, but not limited to, 30 USC 226(p) and 43 CFR, Part 3162.3-1(h).	No similar objective.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Objective MR-2: Where a proposed fluid mineral development project on an existing lease could adversely affect GRSG populations or habitat, the BLM will work with the lessees, operators, or other project proponents to avoid, minimize, and compensate for adverse impacts on the extent compatible with lessees' rights to drill and produce fluid mineral resources. The BLM will work with the lessee, operator, or project proponent in developing an application for permit to drill for the lease to avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts on GRSG or its habitat and will ensure that the best information about the GRSG and its habitat informs and helps to guide development of such federal leases.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Management Actions (MA):	Management Actions (MA):	—
MA-MR-2: Manage fluid mineral leasing in PHMA as follows (Figure 2-4, Fluid Minerals [Oil and Gas] [Appendix A]) (Appendix G, Stipulations Associated with Fluid Mineral Leasing): • open to leasing, subject to standard stipulations: 0 acres • open to leasing, subject to CSU and/or TL stipulations: 23,600 acres • open to leasing, subject to NSO stipulations: 3,229,600 acres • closed to leasing: 111,900 acres	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 5a.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Unleased Federal Fluid Mineral Estate	Unleased Federal Fluid Mineral Estate	—
MA-MR-3: <u>Unleased Areas within PHMA</u> PHMA will be designated as open to leasing fluid minerals, subject to NSO stipulations. In SFA, there will be no waivers, exceptions, or modifications. In the remainder of PHMA, no waivers or modifications to a fluid mineral lease NSO stipulation will be granted. The Authorized Officer may grant an exception to a fluid mineral lease no-surface-occupancy stipulation only where the proposed action: • Would not have direct, indirect, or cumulative effects on GRSG or its habitat; or, • Is proposed to be undertaken as an alternative to a similar action occurring on a nearby parcel, and would provide a clear conservation gain to GRSG. Exceptions based on conservation gain (ii) may only be considered in (a) PHMA of mixed ownership where federal minerals underlie less than fifty percent of the total surface, or (b) areas of the public lands where the proposed exception is an alternative to an action occurring on a nearby parcel subject to a valid federal fluid mineral lease existing as of the date of this Approved RMPA. Exceptions based on conservation gain must also include measures, such as enforceable institutional controls and buffers, sufficient to allow the BLM to conclude that such benefits will endure for the duration of the proposed action's impacts. Any exceptions to this lease stipulation may be approved by the Authorized Officer only with the concurrence of the State Director. The Authorized Officer may not grant an exception unless the applicable state wildlife agency, the USFWS, and the BLM unanimously find that the proposed action satisfies (i) or (ii). Such finding shall initially be made by a team of one field biologist or other GRSG expert from each respective agency. In the event the initial finding is not unanimous, the finding may be elevated to the appropriate BLM State Director, USFWS	MA-MR-3: <u>Unleased Areas within PHMA</u> PHMA will be designated as open to leasing fluid minerals, subject to NSO stipulations. Within PHMA, the Authorized Officer may grant an exception to a fluid mineral lease NSO stipulation where the proposed action: • Occurs in non-habitat that does not provide important connectivity between habitat areas and the development would not cause indirect disturbance to or disruption of adjacent seasonal habitats that would impair their biological function of providing the life-history or behavioral needs of the Greater Sage-Grouse population due to project design (e.g., minimize sound, preclude tall structures, require perch deterrents), as demonstrated in the project's NEPA document; or • Is proposed to be undertaken as an alternative to a similar action occurring on a nearby parcel, and development on the parcel in question would have less of an impact on Greater Sage-Grouse or its habitat than on the nearby parcel; this exception must also include measures sufficient to allow the BLM to conclude that such benefits will endure for the duration of the proposed action's impacts. The BLM Authorized Officer may grant a modification to a fluid mineral lease no surface occupancy stipulation only where an exception is granted, as described above, for the primary disturbance (e.g., well pad, compressor station). A modification to the no surface occupancy stipulation could be considered for the associated infrastructure related to the development that are not individually precluded by other Greater Sage-Grouse actions (e.g., roads, pipelines, power lines). While the no surface occupancy stipulation could be modified for this infrastructure, it must still comply with other Greater Sage-Grouse management contained in MA-SSS-3. The BLM Authorized Officer may grant a waiver to a fluid mineral lease no surface occupancy stipulation if, through the appropriate planning process (i.e., plan	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
State Ecological Services Director, and state wildlife agency head for final resolution. In the event their finding is not unanimous, the exception will not be granted. Approved exceptions will be made publically available at least quarterly. In addition, any lease activities will apply the pertinent management for discretionary activities in PHMA identified in MA-SSS-3 (e.g., mitigation, disturbance cap, minerals/energy density, buffers, seasonal restrictions, and RDFs). Outside PHMA, portions of opportunity areas within 4 miles of a lek that is located in PHMA will be open for leasing with CSU stipulations (avoiding noise and tall structures that could affect adjacent GRSG use of PHMA).	maintenance, amendment) the area is no longer within PHMA. Approved exceptions will be made publicly available at least quarterly. In addition, any lease activities will apply the pertinent management for discretionary activities in PHMA identified in MA-SSS-3 (e.g., mitigation, disturbance cap, minerals/energy density, seasonal restrictions, and RDFs), including if an exception to the NSO is granted. Outside PHMA, portions of opportunity areas within the buffer distances identified in Appendix B of a lek that is located in PHMA will be open for leasing with CSU stipulations (avoiding noise and tall structures that could affect adjacent GRSG use of PHMA).	(See above.)
MA-MR-4: <u>Unleased Areas within GHMA</u> Manage fluid mineral leasing in GHMA as follows (Figure 2-4): • open to leasing, subject to standard stipulations: 238,700 acres • open to leasing, subject to CSU and/or TL stipulations: 294,200 acres • open to leasing, subject to NSO stipulations: 32,700 acres • closed to leasing: 28,400 acres • planning decision not mapped: 133,400 acres In GHMA, new development of fluid mineral leases could be considered if they apply the pertinent management for discretionary activities in GHMA identified in MA-SSS-5.	No similar action.	Potential change under Alternative 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Leased Federal Fluid Mineral Estate	Leased Federal Fluid Mineral Estate	Leased Federal Fluid Mineral Estate
MA-MR-5: Apply the following conservation measures through implementation decisions (e.g., approval of an application for permit to drill, geothermal drilling permit, Sundry Notice, Master Development Plans, etc.) and upon completion of the environmental record of review (43 CFR, Part 3162.5). In this process, evaluate whether the conservation measures are “reasonable” (43 CFR, Part 3101.1-2) with the valid existing rights.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MA-MR-6: In PHMA, avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts on GRSG and their habitat (e.g., habitat loss, fragmentation, indirect impacts, etc.) from new oil and gas development on existing leases. Where possible, place development outside of PHMA. If it is determined that this restriction renders the recovery of fluid minerals infeasible or uneconomic, considering the lease as a whole, or where development of existing leases requires that disturbance density exceeds 1 per 640, and/or 3 percent disturbance cap, apply other measures to site proposed lease activities to meet GRSG habitat objectives and require mitigation as described in Appendix F. If the lease is entirely within PHMA, if feasible, apply the lek buffers from MA-SSS-3H. If this is not technically feasible, locate infrastructure in areas that will minimize habitat loss. Require any development to be placed at the most distal part of the lease from the lek or in areas least harmful to GRSG populations and habitat (e.g., areas where local terrain features such as ridges and ravines may reduce habitat importance or shield nearby habitat from disruptive factors). For geophysical exploration activities, include seasonal TLs and RDFs as permit conditions of approval to eliminate or minimize surface-disturbing and disruptive activities within nesting and brood-rearing habitat and winter concentration areas.	MA-MR-6: In PHMA, avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts on GRSG and their habitat (e.g., habitat loss, fragmentation, indirect impacts, etc.) from new oil and gas development on existing leases (see MA-SSS-1 language related to placement of development in non-habitat portions of PHMA). Where possible, place development outside of PHMA. If it is determined that this restriction renders the recovery of fluid minerals infeasible or uneconomic, considering the lease as a whole, or where development of existing leases requires that disturbance density exceeds 1 per 640, and/or 3 percent disturbance cap, apply other measures to site proposed lease activities to meet GRSG habitat objectives and require mitigation as described in Appendix F. If the lease is entirely within PHMA, if technically feasible, apply the lek buffers from MA-SSS-3H. If this is not technically feasible, locate infrastructure in areas that will minimize habitat loss. Require any development to be placed at the most distal part of the lease from the lek or in areas least harmful to GRSG populations and habitat (e.g., areas where local terrain features such as ridges and ravines may reduce habitat importance or shield nearby habitat from disruptive factors). For geophysical exploration activities, include seasonal TLs and RDFs as permit conditions of approval to eliminate or minimize surface-disturbing and disruptive activities within nesting and brood-rearing habitat and winter concentration areas.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MA-MR-7: To the extent consistent with existing lease-rights, apply the pertinent management for discretionary activities in PHMA identified in MA-SSS-3 (e.g., mitigation, disturbance cap, minerals/energy density, buffers, seasonal restrictions, and RDFs) and in GHMA identified in MA-SSS-5 (i.e., mitigation, buffers, and RDFs).	MA-MR-7: To the extent consistent with existing lease-rights, apply the pertinent management for discretionary activities in PHMA identified in MA-SSS-3 (e.g., mitigation, disturbance cap, minerals/energy density, buffers, seasonal restrictions, and RDFs).	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MA-MR-8: In PHMA, operators must submit a master development plan with site-specific plans of development for roads, wells, pipelines and other infrastructure prior to any development being authorized. The BLM will evaluate the plan through the NEPA process.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MA-MR-9: In PHMA, encourage unitization when deemed necessary for proper development and operation of an area (with strong oversight and monitoring) to minimize adverse impacts on GRSG according to the Federal Lease Form, 3100-11, Sections 4 and 6.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MA-MR-10: In PHMA, identify areas where acquisitions (including federal mineral rights) or conservation easements, will benefit GRSG habitat.	No similar action.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MA-MR-11: In PHMA, require a full reclamation bond specific to the site in accordance with 43 CFR, Parts 3104.2, 3104.3, 3104.5, and 36 CFR, Part 228.109. Insure bonds are sufficient for costs relative to reclamation that will result in full restoration of the lands to the condition it was found prior to disturbance. Base the reclamation costs on the assumption that contractors will perform the work.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Locatable Minerals	Locatable Minerals	—
Management Actions (MA):	Management Actions (MA):	—
MA-MR-12: SFA will be recommended for withdrawal from the Mining Law of 1872 (as amended), subject to valid existing rights (Figure 2-5, Locatable Minerals [Appendix A]). Other federal lands or non-federal lands with federal mineral interests within PHMA or GHMA that are not already withdrawn will be available for locatable mineral entry. Areas that are recommended for withdrawal will continue to be managed as they are currently managed. In PHMA, to the extent consistent with the rights of a mining claimant under existing laws and regulations, limit surface disturbance from locatable mineral development and apply management to minimize and mitigate impacts. To the extent allowable by law, work with claimants to voluntarily apply the pertinent management for discretionary activities in PHMA identified in MA-SSS-3 (e.g., mitigation, disturbance cap, minerals/energy density, buffers, seasonal restrictions, and RDFs) and in GHMA identified in MA-SSS-5 (i.e., mitigation and buffers). Regardless of whether agreements with the claimant incorporates the 3 percent disturbance cap (MA-SSS-3B), disturbance from locatable mineral development will be included as disturbance when calculating disturbance for other land uses.	MA-MR-12: Federal lands or non-federal lands with federal mineral interests within PHMA that are not already withdrawn will be available for locatable mineral entry. Areas that are recommended for withdrawal will continue to be managed as they are currently managed. In PHMA, to the extent consistent with the rights of a mining claimant under existing laws and regulations, limit surface disturbance from locatable mineral development and apply management to minimize and mitigate impacts. To the extent allowable by law, work with claimants to voluntarily apply the pertinent management for discretionary activities in PHMA identified in MA-SSS-3 (e.g., mitigation, disturbance cap, minerals/energy density, buffers, seasonal restrictions, and RDFs). Regardless of whether agreements with the claimant incorporates the 3 percent disturbance cap (MA-SSS-3B), disturbance from locatable mineral development will be included as disturbance when calculating disturbance for other land uses.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
Saleable Materials	Saleable Materials	—
Management Actions (MA):	Management Actions (MA):	—
MA-MR-13: In PHMA, manage mineral materials as follows (Figure 2-6, Saleable Minerals [Mineral Materials] [Appendix A]): - open to mineral materials development: 0 acres - closed to mineral materials development: 2,587,100 acres	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MA-MR-14: Close PHMA to new mineral material sales. However, these areas remain “open” to free use permits and the expansion of existing active pits, only if the following criteria are met at all phases of the development (construction and long-term operation of facilities): - the activity is within the population area (BSU) and project area disturbance cap (MA-SSS-3B); - the activity is subject to the provisions set forth in the mitigation framework (MA-SSS-3A); - all applicable RDFs are applied (MA-SSS-3I); and - the activity applies the other pertinent management for discretionary activities in PHMA in MA-SSS-3. In GHMA, new mineral material developments can be considered if consistent with the pertinent management for discretionary activities described in MA-SSS-5.	MA-MR-14: Close PHMA to new mineral material sales (see MA-SSS-I language related to placement of development in non-habitat portions of PHMA). However, these areas remain “open” to free use permits and the expansion of existing active pits, only if the following criteria are met at all phases of the development (construction and long-term operation of facilities): - the activity is within the population area (BSU) and project area disturbance cap (MA-SSS-3B); - the activity is subject to the provisions set forth in the mitigation framework (MA-SSS-3A); - all applicable RDFs are applied (MA-SSS-3I); and the activity applies the other pertinent management for discretionary activities in PHMA in MA-SSS-3.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Non-Energy Leasable Minerals	Non-Energy Leasable Minerals	—
Management Actions (MA):	Management Actions (MA):	—
MA-MR-15: In PHMA, manage nonenergy leasable minerals on federal lands and non-federal lands with federal mineral interests as follows (Figure 2-7, Non-Energy Leasable Minerals [Appendix A]): - Open to Leasing Consideration – 24,800 acres (National Forest System lands in Wyoming) - Closed to Leasing – 3,340,200 acres In PHMA, close federal lands and non-federal lands with federal mineral interests to nonenergy leasable mineral leasing. However, expansion of existing operations could be considered if the new lease is contiguous with an existing operation and the new lease (construction, operation, or maintenance) applies the pertinent management for discretionary activities in PHMA identified in MA-SSS-3 (e.g., mitigation, disturbance cap, minerals/energy density, buffers, seasonal restrictions, and RDFs).	MA-MR-15: In PHMA, manage nonenergy leasable minerals on federal lands and non-federal lands with federal mineral interests as follows (Figure 2-7, Non-Energy Leasable Minerals [Appendix A]) (see MA-SSS-I language related to placement of development in non-habitat portions of PHMA): - Open to Leasing Consideration – 24,800 acres (National Forest System lands in Wyoming) - Closed to Leasing – 3,340,200 acres In PHMA, close federal lands and non-federal lands with federal mineral interests to nonenergy leasable mineral leasing. However, expansion of existing operations could be considered if the new lease is contiguous with an existing operation and the new lease (construction, operation, or maintenance) applies the pertinent management for discretionary activities in PHMA identified in MA-SSS-3 (e.g., mitigation, disturbance cap, minerals/energy density, buffers, seasonal restrictions, and RDFs).	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MA-MR-16: In GHMA, manage nonenergy leasable minerals on federal lands and non-federal lands with federal mineral interests as follows (Figure 2-7): • Open to Leasing Consideration – 699,300 acres • Closed to Leasing – 28,200 acres New leasing and development in GHMA can be considered if consistent with the pertinent management for discretionary activities described in MA-SSS-5.	No similar action.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MA-MR-17: In PHMA, exploration and prospecting activities associated with nonenergy leasable minerals will be required to comply with the same stipulations identified for leasing and development, above. In addition: • The exploration/prospecting activity does not occur during sensitive seasonal periods (i.e., breeding and nesting, brood rearing, winter) (MA-SSS-3G). • Facilities associated with exploration/prospecting activities will be removed before the next breeding season. • Disturbances will be restored.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
Coal	Coal	—
Management Actions (MA):	Management Actions (MA):	—
MA-MR-18: <u>Leases Associated with Surface Mining</u> At the time an application for a new coal lease or lease modification is submitted to the BLM, the BLM will determine whether the lease application area is "unsuitable" for all or certain coal mining methods pursuant to 43 CFR, Part 3461.5. PHMA is essential habitat for maintaining GRSG for purposes of the suitability criteria set forth at 43 CFR, Part 3461.5(o)(1).	MA-MR-18: <u>Leases Associated with Surface Mining</u> At the time an application for a new coal lease or lease modification is submitted to the BLM, the BLM will determine whether the lease application area is "unsuitable" for all or certain coal mining methods pursuant to 43 CFR, Part 3461.5. Coordination with the appropriate State of Utah agency and the determination of essential habitat for maintaining GRSG for purposes of the suitability criteria set forth at 43 CFR, Part 3461.5(o)(1) will consider site-specific information associated with potential lease nomination areas as part of the unsuitability process identified above.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MA-MR-19: <u>Leases Associated with Underground Mining</u> Consider leasing PHMA for coal that will be extracted through underground mining. Require the following stipulations as part of any new lease or lease modification: • In PHMA, appurtenant facilities will not be placed in GRSG habitat, where technically feasible. • In PHMA, if placement of facilities outside of GRSG habitat is not technically feasible, disturbances associated with the lease (construction, operation, or maintenance) can be allowed if they are consistent with the pertinent management for discretionary activities identified in MA-SSS-3 (e.g., mitigation, disturbance cap, minerals/energy density, buffers, noise restrictions, seasonal restrictions, etc.). If the above criteria cannot be met, do not grant new leases or modifications.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MA-MR-20: New leasing for underground mining of coal in GHMA can be considered if consistent with the pertinent management for discretionary activities described in MA-SSS-5.	No similar action.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MA-MR-21: In PHMA, exploration activities needed to meet data adequacy standards associated with potential coal leasing will be required to comply with the pertinent management for discretionary activities identified in MA-SSS-3 (e.g., mitigation, disturbance cap, buffers, noise restrictions, seasonal restrictions, etc.).	No similar action.	No change proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MA-MR-22: For underground coal mining operations on existing leases: In PHMA, unless required for technical or safety reasons, do not authorize new appurtenant surface facilities for existing underground mining. If new appurtenant surface facilities associated the existing mine leases cannot be located outside of PHMA, collocate them with any existing disturbed areas, if possible. If collocation is not possible, then construct new facilities to minimize disturbed areas while meeting mine safety standards/requirements, as identified by Mine Safety and Health Administration mine-plan approval process, and locate the facilities in an area least harmful to GRSG habitat based on vegetation, topography, or other habitat features.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MA-MR-23: For coal mining operations on existing leases: In GHMA, new disturbances could be considered if consistent with the pertinent management for discretionary activities described in MA-SSS-5.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Mineral Split-Estate	Mineral Split-Estate	—
Management Actions (MA):	Management Actions (MA):	—
MA-MR-24: Where the federal government manages the mineral estate in PHMA and GHMA, and the surface is in non-federal ownership, apply the same stipulations, conditions of approval, and/or conservation measures and RDFs applied if the mineral estate is developed on BLM-administered lands in that management area, to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities, and in coordination with the landowner. Where the federal government manages the surface and the mineral estate is in non-federal ownership in PHMA and GHMA, apply appropriate surface use conditions of approval, stipulations, and mineral RDFs through ROW grants or other surface management instruments, to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities, in coordination with the mineral estate owner/lessee.	MA-MR-24: Where the federal government manages the mineral estate in PHMA, and the surface is in non-federal ownership, apply the same stipulations, conditions of approval, and/or conservation measures and RDFs applied if the mineral estate is developed on BLM-administered lands in that management area, to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities, and in coordination with the landowner. Where the federal government manages the surface and the mineral estate is in non-federal ownership in PHMA, apply appropriate surface use conditions of approval, stipulations, and mineral RDFs through ROW grants or other surface management instruments, to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities, in coordination with the mineral estate owner/lessee.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
RENEWABLE ENERGY (WIND AND SOLAR) (RE)	RENEWABLE ENERGY (WIND AND SOLAR) (RE)	—
Management Actions (MA):	Management Actions (MA):	—
<i>Wind Energy Development</i> MA-RE-1: PHMA will be designated as exclusion areas for wind energy development (2,026,400 acres) (Figure 2-8, Wind [Appendix A]). Do not site wind energy development in opportunity areas within 5 miles from occupied GRSG leks that are in PHMA. Manage wind energy development in GHMA as follows: • Open – 484,900 acres • Avoided – 0 acres • Excluded – 17,600 acres New wind ROW authorizations can be allowed in GHMA if they apply the pertinent management for discretionary activities identified in MA-SSS-5. <i>Solar Energy Development</i> The BLM's Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments/ROD for Solar Energy Development in Six Southwestern States (October 2012) excluded all GRSG occupied habitat to new utility-scale solar development. Because the existing land use plans already exclude solar development in GRSG habitat; this plan amendment process does not need to make additional decisions related to solar development (Figure 2-9, Solar [Appendix A]).	<i>Wind Energy Development</i> MA-RE-1: PHMA will be designated as exclusion areas for wind energy development (2,026,400 acres) (Figure 2-8, Wind [Appendix A]). Avoid siting wind energy development in opportunity areas within the buffer distances identified in Appendix B from occupied GRSG leks that are in PHMA, if the lek buffer analysis as identified in Appendix B shows that siting wind energy development in opportunities areas will impact lek persistence within PHMA. <i>Solar Energy Development</i> The BLM's Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments/ROD for Solar Energy Development in Six Southwestern States (October 2012) excluded all GRSG occupied habitat to new utility-scale solar development. Because the existing land use plans already exclude solar development in GRSG habitat; this plan amendment process does not need to make additional decisions related to solar development (Figure 2-9, Solar [Appendix A]).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
LANDS AND REALTY (LR)	LANDS AND REALTY (LR)	—
Objectives:	Objectives:	—
Objective LR-1: Effects of infrastructure projects, including siting, will be minimized using the best available science, updated as monitoring information on current infrastructure projects becomes available.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Management Actions (MA):	Management Actions (MA):	—
MA-LR-1: In PHMA, manage lands ROWs, permits, and leases as follows (Figure 2-11, Rights-of-Way [Appendix A]): • Open: 18,900 acres (associated with designated above-ground ROW corridors) • Avoided: 1,997,000 acres • Excluded: 10,500 acres	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MA-LR-2: <u>Linear and Site-Type ROWs, Permits, and Leases (excluding wind and solar)</u> PHMA will be avoidance areas for new linear and site type ROWs, permits, and leases except for within ROW corridors designated for aboveground use. Placement of new ROWs, permits, and leases in PHMA shall be avoided if at all possible. Where avoidance is not possible in PHMA, placement of a new ROW/permit/lease can be allowed if it applies the management for discretionary activities in PHMA identified in MA-SSS-3 (e.g., mitigation, disturbance cap, buffers, tall structure restrictions, seasonal restrictions, and applicable RDFs). In PHMA, lands ROWs, permits and leases that cannot be avoided shall be located in areas that minimize the effect on the GRSG population (e.g., non-habitat areas, least suitable habitat, collocated with existing disturbances). In PHMA, new proposals for power lines, access roads, pump storage, and other hydroelectric facilities licensed by Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will be subject to all GRSG ROW avoidance allocations and pertinent management for discretionary activities in MA-SSS-3. Outside PHMA, portions of opportunity areas within 4-miles of a lek that is located in PHMA will be avoidance areas for new ROWs, permits and leases, applying stipulations for noise and tall structures. In addition to the above requirements, the subsequent conditions will apply to specific types of ROW authorizations: <u>Transmission Lines</u> PHMA are designated as avoidance areas for high voltage transmission line ROWs, except for the transmission projects specifically identified below. All authorizations in these areas, other than the following identified projects, must comply with the conservation measures outlined in this plan, including the RDFs and avoidance criteria presented in MA-SSS-03. The BLM is currently processing an application for TransWest Express (including those portions of Energy	MA-LR-2: <u>Linear and Site-Type ROWs, Permits, and Leases (excluding wind and solar)</u> PHMA will be avoidance areas for new linear and site type ROWs, permits, and leases except for within ROW corridors designated for aboveground use. Placement of new ROWs, permits, and leases in PHMA shall be avoided if at all possible. Where avoidance is not possible in PHMA, placement of a new ROW/permit/lease can be allowed if it applies the management for discretionary activities in PHMA identified in MA-SSS-3 (e.g., mitigation, disturbance cap, buffers, tall structure restrictions, seasonal restrictions, and applicable RDFs). In PHMA, lands ROWs, permits and leases that cannot be avoided shall be located in areas that minimize the effect on the GRSG population (e.g., non-habitat areas, least suitable habitat, collocated with existing disturbances). In PHMA, new proposals for power lines, access roads, pump storage, and other hydroelectric facilities licensed by Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will be subject to all GRSG ROW avoidance allocations and pertinent management for discretionary activities in MA-SSS-3. Outside PHMA, portions of opportunity areas within 4-miles of a lek that is located in PHMA will be avoidance areas for new ROWs, permits and leases, applying stipulations for noise and tall structures. In addition to the above requirements, the subsequent conditions will apply to specific types of ROW authorizations: <u>Transmission Lines</u> PHMA are designated as avoidance areas for high voltage transmission line ROWs, except for the transmission projects specifically identified below. All authorizations in these areas, other than the following identified projects, must comply with the conservation measures outlined in this plan, including the RDFs and avoidance criteria presented in MA-SSS-03. The BLM is currently processing an application for TransWest Express (including those portions of Energy Gateway South that are collocated) and the NEPA review for this project is well underway.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
Gateway South that are collocated) and the NEPA review for this project is well underway. Conservation measures for GRSG are being analyzed through the project's NEPA review process, which should achieve a net conservation benefit for the GRSG. In PHMA, high voltage transmission lines (100 kilovolt or greater) will be avoided if possible. If avoidance is not possible, they will be placed in designated corridors where technically feasible. Where not technically feasible, lines should be located adjacent to existing infrastructure, unless using a different alignment better minimizes impacts on GRSG. New ROWs constructed adjacent to existing infrastructure will be constructed as close as technically feasible to existing infrastructure to limit disturbance to the smallest footprint. In PHMA outside of designated corridors, new transmission lines must be buried where technically feasible. Where burying transmission lines is not technically feasible: - new transmission lines must be located adjacent to existing infrastructure, unless using a different alignment better minimizes impacts on GRSG; and - they will be subject to GRSG ROW avoidance criteria described above. In PHMA, if an existing transmission line is being upgraded to a higher voltage transmission line outside an existing corridor: - the existing transmission line must be removed within a reasonable amount of time after the new line is installed and energized; and - the new line must be constructed in the same alignment as the existing line unless an alternate route will benefit GRSG or GRSG habitat. In PHMA, where existing guy wires are determined to have a negative impact on GRSG or its habitat, they shall be removed or appropriately marked with bird flight diverters to make them more visible to GRSG in flight.	Conservation measures for GRSG are being analyzed through the project's NEPA review process, which should achieve a net conservation benefit for the GRSG. In PHMA, high voltage transmission lines (100 kilovolt or greater) will be avoided if possible. If avoidance is not possible, they will be placed in designated corridors where technically feasible. Where not technically feasible, lines should be located adjacent to existing infrastructure, unless using a different alignment or construction method (e.g., burial) better minimizes impacts on GRSG. New ROWs constructed adjacent to existing infrastructure will be constructed as close as technically feasible to existing infrastructure to limit disturbance to the smallest footprint. In PHMA, if an existing transmission line is being upgraded to a higher voltage transmission line outside an existing corridor: - the existing transmission line must be removed within a reasonable amount of time after the new line is installed and energized; and - the new line must be constructed in the same alignment as the existing line unless an alternate route will benefit GRSG or GRSG habitat. In PHMA, where existing guy wires are determined to have a negative impact on GRSG or its habitat, they shall be removed or appropriately marked with bird flight diverters to make them more visible to GRSG in flight. <u>Pipelines</u> In PHMA, major pipelines (greater than 24 inches) that cannot avoid PHMA will be placed in designated corridors where technically feasible. Where not technically feasible, pipelines shall be located adjacent to existing infrastructure, unless using a different alignment better minimizes impacts on GRSG. <u>Communication Sites</u> In PHMA, new communication towers that cannot avoid PHMA must be located, where technically feasible, within an existing communication site. New sites will be	(See above.)

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
<u>Pipelines</u> In PHMA, major pipelines (greater than 24 inches) that cannot avoid PHMA will be placed in designated corridors where technically feasible. Where not technically feasible, pipelines shall be located adjacent to existing infrastructure, unless using a different alignment better minimizes impacts on GRSG. <u>Communication Sites</u> In PHMA, new communication towers that cannot avoid PHMA must be located, where technically feasible, within an existing communication site. New sites will be considered where necessary for public safety.	considered where necessary for public safety.	(See above.)

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MA-LR-3: <u>Road ROWs</u> In PHMA, new road ROWs will be authorized when necessary for public safety, administrative access, or subject to valid existing rights. If the new ROW is necessary for public safety, administrative access, or subject to valid existing rights and creates new surface disturbance, then avoid, minimize, and compensate for the impacts. In PHMA, limit route construction to realignments of existing ROWs if the realignment maintains or enhances GRSG habitat, eliminates the need to authorize a new ROW to construct a new road, or is necessary for public safety or public need. In PHMA, subject to valid existing rights, new road ROWs/easements will be authorized only when necessary for public safety or administrative access or, if it creates no new or de minimis new surface disturbance. In PHMA, collocate new ROWs as close as technically possible to existing ROWs or where it best minimizes GRSG impacts. Use existing roads, or realignments, to access valid existing rights that are not yet developed. If valid existing rights cannot be accessed via existing roads, then build any new road constructed to the absolute minimum standard necessary. In PHMA, existing Federal Highway Act Appropriation ROWs will be managed as valid existing rights, and new Federal Highway Act ROWs will continue to be considered and subject to all GRSG ROW plan restrictions.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MA-LR-4: In PHMA, designate ROW corridors as identified on Figure 2-10, Designated Utility Corridors [Appendix A]: • Retain 17,600 acres of existing designated ROW corridor • Retain 44,300 acres of existing designated ROW corridor, but stipulate new developments be limited to underground use only • Undesignate 18,200 acres of existing designated ROW corridor In PHMA, placement of new ROWs in corridors should be avoided if at all possible. Where avoidance is not possible: • Allow new linear ROWs in designated corridors. • New ROWs constructed in designated corridors will be constructed as close as technically feasible to existing linear ROW infrastructure to limit disturbance to the smallest footprint, unless using a different alignment better minimizes impacts on GRSG. • Apply the pertinent management for discretionary activities in PHMA identified in MA-SSS-3.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MA-LR-5: In PHMA, when a ROW grant expires, is relinquished, or terminated, required rehabilitation as a term and condition of the FLPMA ROW grant, in compliance with 43 CFR, Part 2805.12(i). - the lease holder will be required to restore the site by removing overhead lines and other infrastructure, and; - eliminate existing raven nesting opportunities created by anthropogenic development on public lands (e.g., remove power line and communication facilities no longer in service). In PHMA, during renewal, amendment or reauthorization of existing permits, work with existing ROW holders to mitigate impacts of existing ROW infrastructure. Where technically feasible, require ROW holders to bury or relocate existing power lines to minimize long-term impacts on GRSG habitat. Where the potential long-term impacts of relocating or burying the line will be greater than the existing impacts, do not pursue the mitigation. If relocation or burying is not feasible or will result in severe short-term or greater long-term impacts on GRSG habitat, incorporate additional terms and conditions in the ROW authorization for protection of GRSG habitat. Work with ROW holders to retrofit existing towers with perch deterrents or other anti-perching devices, where appropriate, to limit GRSG predation.	MA-LR-5: In PHMA, when a ROW grant expires, is relinquished, or terminated, required rehabilitation as a term and condition of the FLPMA ROW grant, in compliance with 43 CFR, Part 2805.12(i). - the lease holder will be required to restore the site by removing overhead lines and other infrastructure, and; - eliminate existing raven nesting opportunities created by anthropogenic development on public lands (e.g., remove power line and communication facilities no longer in service). In PHMA, during renewal, amendment or reauthorization of existing permits, work with existing ROW holders to mitigate impacts of existing ROW infrastructure on GRSG (e.g., predator deterrents, maintenance schedules, relocation, burial, etc.). Where the potential long-term impacts of mitigation will be greater than the existing impacts, do not pursue the mitigation. If relocation or burying is not feasible or will result in severe short-term or greater long-term impacts on GRSG habitat, incorporate additional terms and conditions in the ROW authorization for protection of GRSG habitat. Work with ROW holders to retrofit existing towers with perch deterrents or other anti-perching devices, where appropriate, to limit GRSG predation.	No change proposed.
MA-LR-6: In PHMA, where existing leases or ROWs have had some level of development (road, fence, well, etc.) and are no longer in use, remove the features and restore the habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MA-LR-7: In GHMA, manage ROWs, permits, and leases as follows (Figure 2-11): - Open: 484,900 acres - Avoided: 0 acres - Excluded: 17,600 acres New ROWs (including permits and leases) authorizations will be allowed if they apply the pertinent management for discretionary activities in GHMA identified in MA-SSS-5.	No similar action.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MA-LR-8: In GHMA, retain 74,700 acres of designated ROW corridors as identified on Figure 2-10.	No similar action.	No change proposed.
Land Tenure	Land Tenure	—
MA-LR-9: Lands classified as PHMA and GHMA for GRSG will be retained in federal management (Figure 2-12, Land Tenure [Appendix A]) unless: (1) the agency can demonstrate that disposal of the lands, including land exchanges, will provide a net conservation gain to the GRSG or (2) the agency can demonstrate that the disposal of the lands, including land exchanges, will have no direct or indirect adverse impact on conservation of the GRSG.	MA-LR-9: Lands classified as PHMA for GRSG will be retained in federal management (Figure 2-12, Land Tenure [Appendix A]) unless: (1) the agency can demonstrate that disposal of the lands, including land exchanges, will improve the condition of GRSG habitat or (2) the agency can demonstrate that the disposal of the lands, including land exchanges, will not compromise the persistence of GRSG populations within a PHMA.	No change proposed.
MA-LR-10: In PHMA, where suitable conservation actions cannot be achieved, seek to acquire state and private lands with intact federal mineral estate by donation, purchase or exchange in order to best conserve, enhance or restore GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
Recommended Withdrawals	Recommended Withdrawals	—
MA-LR-11: SFA will be recommended for withdrawal from the Mining Law of 1872 (as amended), subject to valid existing rights. Other federal lands or non-federal lands with federal mineral interests within PHMA or GHMA that are not already withdrawn or recommended for withdrawal will be available for locatable mineral entry (Figure 2-5).	MA-LR-11: Federal lands or non-federal lands with federal mineral interests within PHMA that are not already withdrawn or recommended for withdrawal will be available for locatable mineral entry (Figure 2-5).	No change proposed.
RECREATION (REC)	RECREATION (REC)	—
Management Actions (MA):	Management Actions (MA):	—
MA-REC-1: In PHMA, only allow BLM SRPs that have neutral or beneficial effect on GRSG and their habitat. Evaluate existing SRPs for adverse effect on GRSG and their habitat. Modify or cancel the permit, as appropriate and where possible to avoid or mitigate effects of habitat alterations or other physical disturbances to GRSG (e.g., breeding, brood-rearing, migration patterns, or winter survival). Identify permit stipulations that require the permittee to implement any necessary habitat restoration activities after SRP events. Restoration activities must be consistent with GRSG habitat objectives.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MA-REC-2: In PHMA, do not construct new recreation facilities (e.g., campgrounds, trailheads, staging areas) unless the development will have a net conservation gain to GRSG habitat (such as concentrating recreation, diverting use away from critical areas, etc.), or unless the development is required for visitor health and safety or resource protection.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT (TTM)	TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT (TTM)	—
Management Actions (MA):	Management Actions (MA):	—
MA-TTM-I: Manage off-highway vehicle (OHV) use in GRSG habitat as follows (Figure 2-13, Trails and Travel Management [Appendix A]): • Open to cross-country use: 525 acres (one area each in Parker Mountain and Uintah Population Areas) • Limited to existing routes: 1,274,700 acres • Limited to designated routes: 1,220,500 acres • Closed: 33,200 acres	MA-TTM-I: Manage off-highway vehicle (OHV) use in GRSG habitat as follows (Figure 2-13, Trails and Travel Management [Appendix A]): • Open to cross-country use: 525 acres (one area each in Parker Mountain and Uintah Population Areas); two areas outside of PHMA in the Sheeprocks Population Area, associated with 5-Mile Pass (6,320 acres) and Little Sahara Sand Dunes (7,900 acres) • Limited to existing routes: 1,260,500 acres • Limited to designated routes: 1,220,500 acres • Closed: 33,200 acres	No change proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MA-TTM-2: PHMA and GHMA that do not have designated routes in a Travel Management Plan will be managed as limited to existing routes until a Travel Management Plan designates routes (unless they are already designated as limited to designated routes or closed to OHV use). OHV Areas designated as “closed” will be managed as areas closed to motorized vehicles. OHV Areas designated as “limited existing” within PHMA will be managed as “limited to existing roads, primitive roads, and trails” until the completion of an implementation level travel plan. Individual route designations will occur during subsequent implementation level travel management planning efforts. Upon the completion of implementation level travel management plans OHV areas designated as “Limited” will automatically transition to “limited to designated roads, primitive roads and trails.”	MA-TTM-2: PHMA that does not have designated routes in a Travel Management Plan will be managed as limited to existing routes until a Travel Management Plan designates routes (unless they are already designated as limited to designated routes or closed to OHV use). Two areas that were GHMA previously will remain limited to existing routes, though they would no longer be GHMA: 7,400 acres in the Bald Hills area and 13,500 acres in the Fillmore Field Office portions of Sheeprocks area, east of Highway 6. The other two areas of former GHMA (6,320 acres in the 5-Mile Pass area and 7,900 acres in the Little Sahara Recreation Area) will also remain limited until the BLM completes the Section 106 OHV area designation process found in the <i>Programmatic Agreement among the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, The Bureau of Land Management – Utah and the Utah State Historic Preservation Office regarding National Historic Preservation Act Responsibilities for Travel and Transportation Management Undertakings</i>. Under the Programmatic Agreement the BLM will identify an Area of Potential Effect, conduct an identification process, make a finding of effect, and if necessary, develop a historic properties treatment plan. Once these procedures are completed, the applicable portions of these areas will revert to being open to cross-country use, consistent with prior RMP OHV allocations. OHV Areas designated as “closed” will be managed as areas closed to motorized vehicles. OHV Areas designated as “limited existing” within PHMA will be managed as “limited to existing roads, primitive roads, and trails” until the completion of an implementation level travel plan. Individual route designations will occur during subsequent implementation level travel management planning efforts. Upon the completion of implementation level travel management plans OHV areas designated as “Limited” will automatically transition to “limited to designated roads, primitive roads and trails.”	No change proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MA-TTM-3: Implementation level travel planning efforts will be guided by the goals, objectives and guidelines outlined in the GRSG section, relevant national and Utah specific guidance as well as the following: • A timeline to complete travel planning efforts will be identified, prioritized and updated annually in all relevant planning areas to accelerate the accomplishment of: data collection, route evaluation and selection, and on the ground implementation efforts including signing, monitoring and rehabilitation. • During subsequent travel management planning, consultation “with interested user groups, federal, state, county, and local agencies, local landowners, and other parties in a manner that provides an opportunity for the public to express itself and have its views given consideration.” Consequently, a public outreach plan to fully engage all interested stakeholders will be incorporated into future travel management plans. • Among other designation criteria from 43 CFR, Part 8342.1(b), “areas and trails shall be located to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant disruption of wildlife habitats. Special attention will be given to protect endangered or threatened species and their habitats.” • During subsequent travel management planning, all routes will undergo a route evaluation to determine its purpose and need and the potential resource and/or user conflicts from motorized travel. Where resource and/or user conflicts outweigh the purpose and need for the route, the route will be considered for closure or considered for relocation outside of sensitive GRSG habitat. • During subsequent travel planning, threats to GRSG and their habitat will be considered when evaluating route designations and/or closures. • During subsequent travel management planning, routes that do not have a purpose or need will be considered for closure. • During subsequent travel management, planning, routes that are duplicative,	MA-TTM-3: Implementation level travel planning efforts will be guided by the goals, objectives and guidelines outlined in the GRSG section, relevant national and Utah specific guidance as well as the following: • A timeline to complete travel planning efforts will be identified, prioritized and updated annually in all relevant planning areas to accelerate the accomplishment of: data collection, route evaluation and selection, and on the ground implementation efforts including signing, monitoring and rehabilitation. • During subsequent travel management planning, consultation “with interested user groups, federal, state, county, and local agencies, local landowners, and other parties in a manner that provides an opportunity for the public to express itself and have its views given consideration.” Consequently, an outreach plan to fully engage all interested stakeholders, including state, local, and tribal governments, will be incorporated into future travel management plans. • Among other designation criteria from 43 CFR, Part 8342.1(b), “areas and trails shall be located to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant disruption of wildlife habitats. Special attention will be given to protect endangered or threatened species and their habitats.”	No change proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
parallel, or redundant will be considered for closure. • During subsequent travel management planning, seasonal restrictions on OHV use will be considered in important seasonal habitats where OHV use is a threat. During subsequent travel management planning, consider limiting over snow vehicles designed for use over snow and that runs on a track or tracks and/or a ski or skis, while in use over snow to designated routes or consider seasonal closures in GRSG wintering areas from November 1 through March 31. • During subsequent travel management planning, routes not required for public access or recreation with a current administrative/agency purpose or need will be evaluated for administrative access only. • During subsequent travel management planning, consider prioritizing restoration of routes not designated in a Travel Management Plan. • During subsequent travel management plan implementation, consider using seed mixes or transplant techniques that will maintain or enhance GRSG habitat when rehabilitating linear disturbances. • During subsequent travel management plan implementation, consider scheduling road maintenance to avoid disturbance during sensitive periods and times to the extent practicable. Consider using time of day limits (e.g., no use between 6:00 pm and 9:00 am) to reduce impacts on GRSG during breeding periods.	(See above.)	(See above.)

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MA-TTM-4: In PHMA, complete transportation plans in accordance with National BLM Travel Management guidance, requiring the BLM to maintain a current action plan and planning schedule to most effectively target available resources. The following GRSG population areas are Utah's top priority areas to designate comprehensive travel plans: • Sheeprocks • Box Elder • Ibapah • Bald Hills • Rich • Hamlin Valley	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MA-TTM-5: In PHMA, travel systems will be managed with an emphasis on improving the sustainability of the travel network in a comprehensive manner to minimize impacts on GRSG, maintain motorist safety, and prevent unauthorized cross country travel while meeting access needs. To do so, it may be necessary to improve portions of existing routes, close existing routes or create new routes that meet user group needs, thereby reducing the potential for pioneering unauthorized routes. The emphasis of the comprehensive travel and transportation planning will be placed on having a neutral or positive effect on GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MA-TTM-6: In PHMA, when considering upgrade of existing routes that will change route category (BLM route categories: road, primitive road, or trail) or capacity, consider the larger transportation network while providing for protection of GRSG habitat.	No similar action.	No change proposed.
MA-TTM-7: In PHMA, use existing roads, or realignments as described above to access valid existing rights that are not yet developed. If valid existing rights cannot be accessed via existing roads, then build any new road constructed to the absolute minimum standard necessary, and add the surface disturbance to the total disturbance. Apply additional effective mitigation necessary to offset the resulting loss of GRSG habitat. Plan for new routes in consideration of the larger transportation network objectives and needs while providing for protection of GRSG habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment	Changes between 2015 and 2019 GRSG Management	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
MA-TTM-8: In PHMA, when reseeding roads, primitive roads and trails, use appropriate seed mixes and consider the use of transplanted sagebrush.	No similar action.	No change proposed.
MA-TTM-9: Develop an educational process to advise OHV users of the potential for conflict with GRSG.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MA-TTM-10: In PHMA and GHMA, temporary closures will be considered in accordance with 43 CFR subpart 8364 (Closures and Restrictions); 43 CFR, subpart 8351 (Designated National Area); 43 CFR, subpart 6302 (Use of Wilderness Areas, Prohibited Acts, and Penalties); 43 CFR, subpart 8341 (Conditions of Use) and any applicable policies. Temporary closure or restriction orders under these authorities are enacted at the discretion of the authorized officer to resolve management conflicts and protect persons, property, and public lands and resources. Where an authorized officer determines that OHVs are causing or will cause considerable adverse effects upon soil, vegetation, wildlife, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, historical resources, threatened or endangered species, wilderness suitability, other authorized uses, or other resources, the affected areas shall be immediately closed to the type(s) of vehicle causing the adverse effect until the adverse effects are eliminated and measures implemented to prevent recurrence. (43 CFR, Part 8341.2) A closure or restriction order should be considered only after other management strategies and alternatives have been explored. The duration of temporary closure or restriction orders should be limited to 24 months or less; however, certain situations may require longer closures and/or iterative temporary closures. This may include closure of routes or areas.	MA-TTM-10: In PHMA, temporary closures will be considered in accordance with 43 CFR subpart 8364 (Closures and Restrictions); 43 CFR, subpart 8351 (Designated National Area); 43 CFR, subpart 6302 (Use of Wilderness Areas, Prohibited Acts, and Penalties); 43 CFR, subpart 8341 (Conditions of Use) and any applicable policies. Temporary closure or restriction orders under these authorities are enacted at the discretion of the authorized officer to resolve management conflicts and protect persons, property, and public lands and resources. Where an authorized officer determines that OHVs are causing or will cause considerable adverse effects upon soil, vegetation, wildlife, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, historical resources, threatened or endangered species, wilderness suitability, other authorized uses, or other resources, the affected areas shall be immediately closed to the type(s) of vehicle causing the adverse effect until the adverse effects are eliminated and measures implemented to prevent recurrence. (43 CFR, Part 8341.2) A closure or restriction order should be considered only after other management strategies and alternatives have been explored. The duration of temporary closure or restriction orders should be limited to 24 months or less; however, certain situations may require longer closures and/or iterative temporary closures. This may include closure of routes or areas.	No change proposed.

Table 2. 2015 Habitat Objectives for Greater Sage-Grouse

Attribute	Indicators	Desired Condition
Breeding and Nesting (February 15-June 15) ^{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6}		
Lek Security	Proximity of trees	Trees absent or uncommon on shrub/grassland ecological sites within 1.8 miles (approx. 3 kilometers) of occupied leks. ^{6, 7, 8}
	Proximity of sagebrush to leks	Has adjacent sagebrush cover. ⁶
Cover	% of seasonal habitat meeting desired conditions	>80% of the mapped nesting habitat meets the recommended vegetation characteristics, where appropriate (relative to ecological site potential, etc.). ⁸
	Sagebrush cover	≥15% ^{6, 8, 9}
	Total shrub cover ^{6, 8, 9}	15-30%: Box Elder, Parker Mountain, Bald Hills, Hamlin Valley, Panguitch, Uintah south of Hwy 40 15-35%: Rich, Carbon, Emery, Sheeprocks, Ibapah, Uintah north of Highway 40
	Sagebrush height ^{6, 8, 9}	>12 inches (30 cm): Box Elder, Bald Hills, Hamlin Valley, Sheeprocks, Ibapah >10 inches (25 cm): Rich, Carbon, Emery, Uintah north of Highway 40 >8 inches (20 cm): Parker Mountain, Panguitch, Uintah south of Highway 40
	Predominant sagebrush shape ¹⁰	>50% in spreading (applicable to the specific sagebrush types prone to columnar vs. spreading shape e.g., Wyoming, not black sage) ⁶
	Perennial grass cover (such as native bunchgrasses, rhizomatous grasses called for on applicable ecological site descriptions, or other perennial grasses that provide similar functionality) ^{6, 8, 9}	>10%: Box Elder, Bald Hills, Hamlin Valley, Rich, Carbon, Emery, Sheeprocks, Ibapah, Uintah north of Highway 40 >5%: Parker Mountain, Panguitch, Uintah south of Highway 40
	Perennial grass and forb height (includes residual grasses) ^{6, 8, 9}	Provide overhead and lateral concealment from predators. ¹¹
	Perennial forb canopy cover ^{6, 8, 9}	>5%: Box Elder, Bald Hills, Hamlin Valley, Rich, Carbon, Emery, Sheeprocks, Ibapah, Uintah north of Highway 40 >3%: Parker Mountain, Panguitch, Uintah south of Highway 40

Attribute	Indicators	Desired Condition
Brood-Rearing/Summer (April 15-August 15)¹		
Cover	% of Seasonal habitat meeting desired condition	>40% of the mapped brood-rearing/summer habitat meets recommended habitat characteristics where appropriate (relative to ecological site potential, etc.) ⁸
	Sagebrush cover ^{6, 8, 9}	>10%
	Total shrub cover ^{6, 8, 9}	10-25%: Box Elder, Bald Hills, Hamlin Valley, Panguitch, Rich, Parker Mountain, Uintah 10-30%: Carbon, Emery, Sheeprocks, Ibapah,
	Sagebrush height ^{6, 8, 9}	>12 inches (30 cm): Box Elder, Bald Hills, Hamlin Valley, Sheeprocks, Ibapah >10 inches (25 cm): Rich, Carbon, Emery, Uintah north of Highway 40 >8 inches (20 cm): Parker Mountain, Panguitch, Uintah south of Highway 40
	Perennial grass cover and forbs ^{6, 8, 9}	>15% (Grass: >10%; Forb: >5%): Box Elder, Rich, Sheeprocks, Ibapah, Parker Mountain, Panguitch, Uintah, Carbon, Emery >15% (Grass: >8%; Forb: >7%): Bald Hills, Hamlin Valley,
	Riparian areas/mesic meadows	Proper Functioning Condition
	Upland and riparian perennial forb availability	Preferred forbs are common with several preferred species present ^{6, 12}
Winter (November 15-March 15)¹		
Cover and Food	% of seasonal habitat meeting desired conditions	>80% of the mapped wintering habitat meets winter habitat characteristics where appropriate (relative to ecological site, etc.). ⁸
	Sagebrush cover above snow ^{6, 8, 9}	>10%
	Sagebrush height above snow ^{6, 8, 9, 13}	>10 inches (25 cm): Box Elder, Bald Hills, Hamlin Valley, Rich, Carbon, Emery, Sheeprocks, Ibapah, Uintah north of Highway 40 >8 inches (20 cm): Parker Mountain, Panguitch, Uintah south of Highway 40

¹ Specific dates will be based on site-specific conditions and may be modified due to documented local variations (e.g., higher/lower elevations) or annual climactic fluctuations (e.g., early/late spring, and long and/or heavy winter), in coordination with the appropriate State of Utah agency.

² Utah Greater Sage-Grouse Working Group 2013

³ Doherty 2008

⁴ Doherty et al. 2010

⁵ Holloran and Anderson 2005

⁶ Stiver et al. 2015 *In Press*

⁷ Baruch-Mordo et al. 2013

⁸ Connelly et al. 2000

⁹ Unpublished data, Utah Community-Based Conservation Program Greater Sage-Grouse Statewide Database, Utah State University, Logan, Utah and Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah. Summarization and analysis of nesting and brood-rearing habitat characteristics from data collected through Utah State University and Brigham Young University research efforts. Researchers located the nest and brood sites using radio-marked telemetry methods. Shortly after the site was used by the marked bird (after hatch or use by a brood), vegetation characteristics on the site were measured using the line intercept method for shrub canopy cover and Daubenmire frames for herbaceous cover. Researchers across the various study areas used methods that followed the guidelines identified in Connelly et al. (2003).

¹⁰ Sagebrush plants that are more tree or columnar-shaped provide less protective cover near the ground than sagebrush plants with a spreading shape (Stiver et al. 2015 *In Press*). Some sagebrush plants are naturally columnar (e.g., Great Basin big sagebrush), and a natural part of the plant community. However, a predominance of columnar shape arising from animal impacts may warrant management investigation or adjustments at site specific scales.

¹¹ Specific height requirements needed to meet the objective will be set at the time of watershed assessments.

¹² Preferred forbs are listed in Stiver et al. 2015 *In Press*. Overall total forb cover may be greater than that of preferred forb cover since not all forb species are listed as preferred.

¹³ The height of sagebrush remaining above the snow depends upon snow depth in a particular year. Intent is to manage for tall, healthy, sagebrush stands.

Table 3. 2019 Habitat Objectives for Greater Sage-Grouse (see Figure 3-1 for the Low, Mid, and High Habitat Objective Zones)

Attribute	Indicators	Desired Condition
Breeding and Nesting (February 15-June 15) ^{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6}		
Lek Security	Proximity to conifers	Conifers are absent or uncommon on shrub/grassland ecological sites within 1.8 miles (approx. 3 kilometers) of occupied leks. ^{6, 7, 8}
	Proximity of sagebrush to leks	Has adjacent sagebrush cover. ⁶
Cover	% of seasonal habitat meeting desired conditions	>80% of the mapped nesting habitat meets the recommended vegetation characteristics ⁸ , where appropriate (relative to ecological site potential, etc.).
	Sagebrush cover ⁹	Low: ≥ 7% Mid: ≥ 18% High: ≥ 14%
	Total shrub cover ^{6, 8, 9}	Low: ≥ 17% Mid: ≥ 22% High: ≥ 19%
	Sagebrush Composition ⁹	Low: ≥ 36% Mid: ≥ 71% High: ≥ 83%
	Shrub height ^{6, 8, 9}	Low: ≥ 12 inches (30 cm) Mid: ≥ 5.9 inches (15 cm) High: ≥ 9 inches (23 cm)
	Perennial grass cover (such as native bunchgrasses, rhizomatous grasses called for on applicable ecological site descriptions, or other perennial grasses that provide similar functionality) ^{6, 8, 9}	Low: ≥ 5% Mid: ≥ 4% High: ≥ 8%
	Perennial grass and forb height (includes residual grasses) ^{6, 8, 9}	Provide overhead and lateral concealment from predators. ¹¹
	Perennial forb canopy cover ^{6, 8, 9}	Low: ≥ 2% Mid: ≥ 1% High: ≥ 4%

Attribute	Indicators	Desired Condition
Brood-Rearing/Summer (April 15-August 15)¹		
Cover	% of Seasonal habitat meeting desired condition	>40% of the mapped brood-rearing/summer habitat meets recommended habitat characteristics ⁸ where appropriate (relative to ecological site potential, etc.)
	Sagebrush cover ^{6, 8, 9}	Low: ≥ 4% Mid: ≥ 16% High: ≥ 17%
	Total shrub cover ^{6, 8, 9}	Low: ≥ 10% Mid: ≥ 19% High: ≥ 15%
	Sagebrush Composition ⁹	Low: ≥ 28% Mid: ≥ 77% High: ≥ 77%
	Shrub height ^{6, 8, 9}	Low: ≥ 10.25 inches (26 cm) Mid: ≥ 4.3 inches (11 cm) High: ≥ 8 inches (20 cm)
	Perennial grass cover ⁹	Low: ≥ 5% Mid: ≥ 6% High: ≥ 8%
	Perennial forb cover ⁹	Low: ≥ 2% Mid: ≥ 2% High: ≥ 6%
	Riparian areas/mesic meadows	Proper Functioning Condition
	Upland and riparian perennial forb availability	Preferred forbs are common with several preferred species present ^{6, 12}
Winter (November 15-March 15)¹		
Cover and Food	% of seasonal habitat meeting desired conditions	>80% of the mapped wintering habitat meets winter habitat characteristics ⁸ where appropriate (relative to ecological site, etc.).
	Sagebrush cover above snow ^{6, 8}	≥ 10%
	Shrub height ⁹	Low: ≥ 12 inches (30 cm) Mid: ≥ 5.9 inches (15 cm) High: ≥ 9 inches (23 cm)

¹ Specific dates will be based on site-specific conditions and may be modified due to documented local variations (e.g., higher/lower elevations) or annual climactic fluctuations (e.g., early/late spring, and long and/or heavy winter), in coordination with the appropriate State of Utah agency.

² Utah Greater Sage-Grouse Working Group 2013

³ Doherty 2008

⁴ Doherty et al. 2010

⁵ Holloran and Anderson 2005

⁶ Stiver et al. 2015

⁷ Baruch-Mordo et al. 2013

⁸ Connolly et al. 2000

⁹ Dahlgren, D., T. A. Messmer, B. A. Crabb, M. T. Kohl, S. N. Frey, E. Thacker, R. T. Larsen, and R. J. Baxter. (In Review). An empirical approach to refining Greater Sage-Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) breeding habitat guidelines. Ecosphere.

¹¹ Specific height requirements needed to meet the objective will be set at the time of watershed assessments.

¹² Preferred forbs are listed in Stiver et al. 2015. Overall total forb cover may be greater than that of preferred forb cover, since not all forb species are listed as preferred.

Table 4. PHMA and GHMA in the 2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMPA

Population Area	Acres					
	PHMA			GHMA		
	Total Surface ¹	BLM Surface ²	Split Estate ³	Total Surface ¹	BLM Surface ²	Split Estate ³
Uintah	566,800	263,200	140,800	991,500	294,200	81,700
Carbon ⁴	260,100	43,500	124,200	198,700	82,800	19,200
Emery	85,500	100	84,000	11,400	0	9,700
Parker Mtn.	741,300	214,200	378,300	12,900	0	7,400
Panguitch	343,900	163,200	91,000	0	0	0
Bald Hills	326,400	259,400	5,200	21,200	8,300	1,200
Hamlin Valley	143,700	101,500	6,600	0	0	0
Sheeprocks	534,600	381,100	111,200	296,500	52,800	15,300
Ibapah	88,800	48,000	700	10,800	10,100	0
Box Elder	1,227,800	439,200	112,000	0	0	0
Rich	1,051,000	167,000	178,400	197,900	300	20,600
Lucerne	0	0	0	37,500	0	11,500
Strawberry	161,500	0	40,900	20,600	0	500
Statewide	5,531,400	2,080,400	1,273,300	1,799,000	448,500	167,100
% PHMA/ GHMA	75%	80%	85%	25%	20%	15%

¹ Acreage associated with total PHMA polygon, regardless of land ownership.

² Acreage within PHMA where the BLM has managerial authority on the surface estate.

³ Acreage where the surface and mineral estates are owned or administered by separate entities. These acres show where the surface estate is not BLM (e.g., private, state, tribal, and Forest Service), but that have a federal mineral estate administered by the BLM. Most minerals decisions apply to the combination of the BLM surface and mineral estates.

⁴ The 41,200 acres of National Forest System lands in the Anthro Mountain area would be managed as neither PHMA nor GHMA. These areas would be identified as "Anthro Mountain." In the BLM's RMPPA, these areas are considered split-estate, where the BLM administers the mineral estate.

Table 5. PHMA in the 2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMPA

Population Area	Acres		
	PHMA		
	Total Surface ¹	BLM Surface ²	Split Estate ³
Uintah	566,800	263,200	140,800
Carbon ⁴	260,100	43,500	124,200
Emery	85,500	100	84,000
Parker Mtn.	741,300	214,200	378,300
Panguitch	343,900	163,200	91,000
Bald Hills	326,400	259,400	5,200
Hamlin Valley	143,700	101,500	6,600
Sheeprocks	534,600	381,100	111,200
Ibapah	88,800	48,000	700
Box Elder	1,227,800	439,200	195,800
Rich	1,015,400	167,000	153,700
Lucerne	0	0	0
Strawberry	161,500	0	40,900
Statewide ⁵	5,495,800	2,080,400	1,332,400

¹ Acreage associated with total PHMA polygon, regardless of land ownership.

² Acreage within PHMA where the BLM has managerial authority on the surface estate.

³ Acreage where the surface and mineral estates are owned or administered by separate entities. These acres show where the surface estate is not BLM (e.g., private, state, tribal, and Forest Service), but that have a federal mineral estate administered by the BLM. Most minerals decisions apply to the combination of the BLM surface and mineral estates.

⁴ The 41,200 acres of National Forest System lands in the Anthro Mountain area would not be managed PHMA. These areas would be identified as "Anthro Mountain." In the BLM's RMPA, these areas are considered split-estate, where the BLM administers the mineral estate.

⁵ PHMA were mapped to exclude all incorporated towns/cities.

2.15.2 Relevant Appendices

The following table shows which appendices from the 2015 and 2019 plans have management direction that may change through this RMP amendment. If 2019 is not listed in the year, then no change was made to the appendix between the 2015 and 2019 plans. The appendices can be found on [the Utah GRSG ePlanning website](#).

ARMPA Appendix Name	Year	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
A: Approved RMP Amendment Maps	2015	Yes
A: Maps	2019	Yes
B: Applying Lek Buffer Distances	2015, 2019	No
C: Required Design Features	2015	Yes
D: Greater Sage-Grouse Monitoring Framework	2015	No
E: Greater Sage-Grouse Disturbance Cap Guidance	2015, 2019	Yes
F: Mitigation Strategy: Utah Greater Sage-Grouse RMPA	2015	Yes
G: Stipulations Associated with Fluid Mineral Leasing	2015, 2019	Yes
H: Fire and Invasives Assessment Tool	2015	No
I: Adaptive Management	2015, 2019	Yes
J: Biological Opinion	2015	No
K: Greater Sage Grouse Habitat Baseline and Habitat Update Protocol	2015, 2019	Yes

Appendix 2.16

Wyoming RMP 2015 Amendments

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2.16 WYOMING RMP 2015 AMENDMENTS

This appendix presents the GRSG approved RMP amendment language from the 2015 record of decision for the RMP Amendments for Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs RMPs. These RMPs were not amended in 2019. The table below notes which goals, objectives, appendices, and management decisions/actions have a potential to change as a result of the current planning effort and if so, under which alternatives changes are being considered. Note that any references to tables and appendices are to those applicable 2015 appendices that are listed in **Section 2.16.2** of this appendix.

2.16.1 Existing GRSG RMP Management – Wyoming RMP 2015 Amendments (Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs RMPs)

Table 1. Summary of Goals, Objectives, and Management Actions in Wyoming 2015 RMP Amendments

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Management Goal 1: Conserve, restore, and enhance Greater Sage-Grouse habitat on a landscape scale consistent with local, state, and federal management plans and policies, as practical, while providing for multiple use of BLM-administered lands.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Management Objective (MO) 1: In cooperation with the State of Wyoming and its agencies, local governments, private landowners, local Greater Sage-Grouse working groups, partners, and stakeholders, develop site-specific conservation strategies to maintain or enhance Greater Sage-Grouse habitats and habitat connectivity.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO 2: Maintain and enhance quality/suitable habitat to support the expansion of Greater Sage-Grouse populations on federally administered lands within the planning area.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MO 3: Manage Greater Sage-Grouse seasonal habitats and maintain habitat connectivity to support population objectives set by the State of Wyoming in cooperation with the agencies.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO 4: Identify and prioritize opportunities for habitat enhancement and conservation within Greater Sage-Grouse core habitat areas based on threats and the ability to manage Greater Sage-Grouse habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO 5: Restore native (or desirable) plants and create landscape patterns that most benefit Greater Sage-Grouse.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MO 6: Develop specific habitat objectives to protect, enhance, or restore Greater Sage-Grouse priority habitat based on ESDs and BLM land health evaluations (including within wetlands and riparian areas) taking into account site history (historic treatments or habitat manipulations) that have changed the soil chemistry, possibly altering the ESD. If an effective grazing system that meets sage-grouse habitat requirements is not already in place, analyze at least one alternative that conserves, restores, or enhances sage-grouse habitat in the NEPA document prepared for grazing management (Doherty et al. 2011, Williams et al. 2011).	Develop specific habitat objectives to protect, enhance, or restore Greater Sage-Grouse priority habitat based on ESDs and BLM land health evaluations (including within wetlands and riparian areas) taking into account site history (historic treatments or habitat manipulations) that have changed the soil chemistry, possibly altering the ESD.	No change proposed.
MO 7: Establish measurable objectives related to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat from baseline monitoring data, ESDs, or land health assessments/evaluations.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO 8: Manage for vegetation composition and structure consistent with ecological site potential to achieve Greater Sage-Grouse seasonal habitat objectives.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO 9: Incorporate available site information collected using the Sage-Grouse Habitat Assessment Framework or similar methods to evaluate existing resource conditions and to develop any necessary resource solutions in cooperation with the State of Wyoming and its agencies, the local governments, private landowners, project proponents, partners, and stakeholders.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO 10: Incorporate management practices that will provide for maintenance and/or enhancement of Greater Sage-Grouse habitats, including specific attention to maintenance of desired understories of sagebrush plant communities. When developing objectives for residual cover and species diversity, identify the ecological site types within the planning area and refer to the appropriate ESDs.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO 11: In determining appropriate management actions that will be considered, refer to the document, <i>Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming's Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat</i> (Cagney et al. 2010) for guidance.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MO 12: Identify PHMA and GHMA for each WAFWA MZ across the current geographic range of Greater Sage-Grouse that are large enough to stabilize populations in the short term and enhance populations over the long term. Greater Sage-Grouse habitat in this planning area overlaps two WAFWA MZs: (1) MZ I - Great Plains and (2) MZ II - Wyoming Basin.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 4 and 5.
MO 13: Protect PHMA and GHMA from anthropogenic disturbance that will reduce distribution or abundance of Greater Sage-Grouse.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 4 and 5.
MO 14: Priority will be given to leasing and development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, outside of PHMA and GHMA. When analyzing leasing and authorizing development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, in PHMA and GHMA, and subject to applicable stipulations for the conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse, priority would be given to development in non-habitat areas first and then in the least suitable habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse. The implementation of these priorities will be subject to valid existing rights and any applicable law or regulation, including, but not limited to, 30 U.S.C. 226(p) and 43 CFR 3162.3-1(h). Where a proposed fluid mineral development project on an existing lease could adversely affect Greater Sage-Grouse populations or habitat, the BLM will work with the lessees, operators, or other project proponents to avoid, reduce, and mitigate adverse impacts on the extent compatible with lessees' rights to drill and produce fluid mineral resources. The BLM will work with the lessee, operator, or project proponent in developing an APD for the lease to avoid and minimize impacts on Greater Sage-Grouse or its habitat and will ensure that the best information about the Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat informs and helps to guide development of such federal leases.	Leasing is allowed in PHMA. Where the BLM has a backlog of Expressions of Interest for leasing, the BLM will prioritize its work first in non-habitat management areas, followed by lower priority habitat management areas (e.g., GHMA) and then higher priority habitat management areas (i.e., PHMA). To the extent consistent with federal regulation, law, and policy, priority would be given to leasing and development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, outside of PHMA. When analyzing leasing and authorizing development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, in PHMA, and subject to applicable stipulations for the conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse, priority would be given to development in non-habitat areas first and then in the least suitable habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse. The implementation of these priorities will be subject to valid existing rights and any applicable law or regulation, including, but not limited to, 30 U.S.C. 226(p) and 43 CFR 3162.3-1(h). Where a proposed fluid mineral development project on an existing lease could adversely affect Greater Sage-Grouse populations or habitat, the BLM will work with the lessees, operators, or other project proponents to avoid, reduce, and mitigate adverse	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
(See above.)	impacts on the extent compatible with lessees' rights to drill and produce fluid mineral resources. To incentivize development to locate outside of PHMA, the BLM would work with the lessee, operator, or project proponent in developing an APD for the lease to avoid and minimize impacts on Greater Sage-Grouse or its habitat and will ensure that the best information about the Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat informs and helps to guide development of such federal leases.	(See above.)
MO 15: In all SFAs and PHMA, the desired condition is to maintain all lands ecologically capable of producing sagebrush (but no less than 70 percent) with a minimum of 15 percent sagebrush cover or as consistent with specific ecological site conditions. The attributes necessary to sustain these habitats are described in <i>Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health</i> (BLM Tech Ref 1734-6).	In PHMA, the desired condition is to maintain all lands ecologically capable of producing sagebrush (but no less than 70 percent) with a minimum of 15 percent sagebrush cover or as consistent with specific ecological site conditions. The attributes necessary to sustain these habitats are described in <i>Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health</i> (BLM Tech Ref 1734-6).	No change proposed.
MO 16: The habitat objectives (see Tables 2-2 and 2-3) will be part of the Greater Sage-Grouse habitat assessment to be used during land health evaluations (see Monitoring Framework in Appendix D). These habitat objectives are not obtainable on every acre within the designated Greater Sage-Grouse habitat management areas. Therefore, the determination on whether the objectives have been met will be based on the specific site's ecological ability to meet the desired condition identified in the table.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MO 17: Effects of infrastructure projects, including siting, will be minimized using the best available science, updated as monitoring information on current infrastructure projects becomes available.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD GMD 1: Continue to support the development of statewide Greater Sage-Grouse seasonal habitat models for the State of Wyoming.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD GMD 2: Field offices will work with project proponents, partners, and stakeholders to avoid or minimize impacts and/or implement direct mitigation (e.g., relocating disturbance, timing restrictions, etc.), and utilize best management practices (BMPs).	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD GMD 3: Utilize the Wyoming SGIT and LVG plans or other state plans, analyses, and other sources of information to guide development of conservation objectives for local management of Greater Sage-Grouse habitats. The BLM will collaborate with appropriate federal agencies, and the State of Wyoming as contemplated under Governor Executive Order 2013-3, to: (1) develop appropriate conservation objectives; (2) define a framework for evaluating situations where Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives are not being achieved on federal land, to determine if a causal relationship exists between improper grazing (by wildlife or wild horses or livestock) and Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives; and (3) identify appropriate site-based action to achieve Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives within the framework.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD GMD 4: Include the collection of baseline data and outline post-project monitoring components in project planning, as appropriate and necessary.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD GMD 5: The BLM will coordinate new recommendations, mitigation, habitat objectives, and management considerations applied for Greater Sage-Grouse with the WGFD and other appropriate agencies, local government cooperators, and the Wyoming SGIT. These measures will be analyzed in site-specific NEPA documents, and planning-level documents, as necessary.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD GMD 6: Apply appropriate seasonal restrictions for implementing vegetation management treatments according to the type of seasonal habitats present within Greater Sage-Grouse habitat. Vegetation treatments must include monitoring to determine achievement of objectives and their long-term success.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD GMD 7: Ensure site-specific, measurable conservation and mitigation objectives are included in project planning within Greater Sage-Grouse habitats.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD GMD 8: Each BLM field office will develop landscape-scale restoration, conservation, and maintenance strategies, including special management of seasonal habitats and identified connectivity zones outside of PHMA, working with voluntary partners and cooperating agencies. These strategies and habitat designations must be coordinated and reconciled with Wyoming's Greater Sage-Grouse Core Area Protection strategy (EO 2015-4), and where possible, with adjoining management entities that share habitats or populations.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD GMD 9: Design all projects in a manner that minimizes potential for invasive species establishment. Monitor and treat invasive species associated with all permitted activities consistent with BLM Handbook H-1740-2.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD GMD 10: Apply all appropriate RDFs (Appendix C) as mandatory Stipulations/COA/Terms and Conditions within PHMA for all program areas as applicable.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD GMD 11: Integrated vegetation management will be used to control, suppress, and eradicate, where possible, noxious and invasive species per BLM Handbook H-1740-2. Manage weed treatments to maintain and improve Greater Sage-Grouse habitat. RDFs and BMPs will be applied to the permit as COA as determined through the site-specific analysis.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD GMD 12: Existing notices and approved plans of operations under 43 CFR 3809: For projects that overlap PHMA, operators may be requested to submit modifications to the accepted notice or approved plan of operations so that the operations minimally affect PHMA (core only). The AO may convey to the operator suggested conservation measures, based on the notice or plan level operations and the geographic area of those operations (also called the project area, which is defined in 43 CFR 3809.5). These suggested conservation measures include measures that support the overall goals and objectives of the priority/core population area strategy and may not be reasonable or applicable to the BLM's determination of whether the proposed operations will cause unnecessary or undue degradation under 43 CFR 3809.5. The request containing the suggested conservation measures must make clear that the operator's compliance is not mandatory. Notices or plans of operation, or modifications thereto, submitted following the issuance of this guidance: As part of the 15-day completeness review of notices (or modifications thereto) and 30-day completeness review of plans of operations (or modifications thereto), the proposed project area(s) where exploration, development, mining, access and reclamation would take place will be reviewed for overlap of Greater Sage-Grouse PHMA in the corporate GIS database. If there is overlap, the BLM AO may notify the operator of ways that they may minimize impacts on PHMA (core only) and request the operator to amend its notice or plan to include such measures. The request to amend the submitted notice or plan of operations must make clear that the operator's compliance is not mandatory and that including such measures is not a requirement for completeness of either the notice or a plan of operations, nor is it a condition of acceptance of the notice or approval of the plan of operations.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD GMD 13: As new occupied Greater Sage-Grouse habitat is found or occurs either through additional inventories or expansion into previously unoccupied habitat, the BLM will incorporate, through appropriate processes and analyses, these areas into the GHMA category and manage them as such, until the earliest review occurs by the SGIT. At that time, they will be considered for PHMA status or continue to be managed as GHMA and will be added to the statewide map.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 4, 5, and 6.
MD GMD 14: Contribute to actions that help to ground-truth the statewide Greater Sage-Grouse seasonal habitat models for the State of Wyoming.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD GMD 15: Use the Sage-grouse Habitat Assessment Framework or best available assessment tool (approved by the AO) when assessing or evaluating Greater Sage-Grouse habitats at multiple scales.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD GMD 16: The official Wyoming Greater Sage-Grouse lek database is maintained by the WGFD in accordance with Appendix 4B of the Umbrella MOU between the WGFD and BLM (WGFD and BLM 1990). The MOU states that agencies will meet at least annually to coordinate and review the accuracy of data, and incorporate the most up-to-date information.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD GMD 17: Many Greater Sage-Grouse seasonal habitats within and outside of PHMA (core only) are encumbered by valid existing rights, such as mineral leases or existing rights-of-way. Fluid mineral leases often will include less stringent lease stipulations than the timing, distance, and density requirements identified for consideration in this plan. The BLM will work with proponents holding valid existing leases that include less stringent lease stipulations than the timing, distance, and density restrictions described within this plan to ensure that measurable Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives (such as, but not limited to, consolidation of infrastructure to reduce habitat fragmentation and loss, and effective conservation of seasonal habitats and habitat connectivity to support management objectives set by the WGFD) are included in all project proposals.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD GMD 18: PHMA will be designated as OHV Limited Areas. The OHV limitation will ultimately be to “Designated Routes” as determined through a subsequent implementation/activity-level Travel Management Plan. In the interim, motorized use on existing routes may occur; however, no new routes may be created without specific authorization.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD GMD 19: Complete activity-level travel plans within 5 years of the record of decision (ROD) for this planning effort. During activity-level planning, where appropriate, designate routes in PHMA with current administrative/agency purpose or need to administrative access only. Existing plans shall be assessed for consistency with Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD GMD 20: Construct roads needed for production activities to minimum design standards within PHMA, in compliance with the Density and Disturbance Calculation Tool (DDCT) process.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD GMD 21: Field office staff will work with project proponents (including those within the BLM) and the WGFD to site their projects in locations that meet the purpose and need for their project, utilize the DDCT, and have been determined to contain the least sensitive habitats.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD GMD 22: Evaluate opportunities to coordinate management plans and strategies on multiple allotments where coordination under a single management plan/strategy will result in enhancing Greater Sage-Grouse populations or its habitat, as determined in coordination with the state wildlife agency and with project proponents, partners, and stakeholders.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD GMD 23: Existing RMP decisions, pertaining to non-Greater Sage-grouse resources, will be retained unless vacated or modified by decisions in this ARMPA. Where more restrictive land use allocations or decisions are made in existing RMPs, those more restrictive land use allocations or decisions will remain in effect and will not be amended by this ARMPA.	Existing RMP decisions, pertaining to non-Greater Sage-Grouse resources, will be retained unless vacated or modified by decisions in this ARMPA. Where inconsistencies between the 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse ARMPA and this 2019 Wyoming GrSG ARMPA arise, the 2019 Wyoming GrSG ARMPA decisions and Appendices apply.	No change proposed.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD GMD 24: Fire and fuels management actions will be designed to contribute to the protection and enhancement of sagebrush habitat that support Greater Sage-Grouse populations (including large, contiguous blocks of sagebrush).	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD GMD 25: BLM planning units (Districts), in coordination with the USFWS and relevant state agencies, will complete and continue to update Greater Sage-Grouse Landscape Wildfire & Invasive Species Habitat Assessments to prioritize at-risk habitats, and identify fuels management, preparedness, suppression and restoration priorities necessary to maintain sagebrush habitat to support interconnecting Greater Sage-Grouse populations. These assessments and subsequent assessment updates will also be a coordinated effort with an interdisciplinary team to take into account other Greater Sage-Grouse priorities identified in this plan. 2015 ARPMA Appendix L describes a minimal framework example and suggested approach for this assessment. Implementation actions will be tiered to the Local (District) Greater Sage-Grouse Landscape Wildfire & Invasive Species Assessment using the best available science related to the conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse. In coordination with the USFWS and relevant state agencies, the BLM planning units (Districts) will identify annual treatment needs for wildfire and invasive species management as identified in local unit-level Landscape Wildfire and Invasive Species Assessments. Annual treatment needs will be coordinated across state/regional scales and across jurisdictional boundaries for long-term conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse. These landscape assessment implementation efforts will be reviewed annually with appropriate USFWS and state agency personnel.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD GMD 26: Implement a coordinated inter-agency approach to fire restrictions based on National Fire Danger Rating System thresholds (fuel conditions, drought conditions, and predicted weather patterns) for Greater Sage-Grouse habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD GMD 27: Within acceptable risk levels, utilize a full range of fire management strategies and tactics, including the management of wildfires, to achieve resource objectives across the range of Greater Sage-Grouse habitat consistent with land use plan direction.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
(No similar action.)	MD GMD 28: The BLM will update its Greater Sage-Grouse habitat management areas, including biologically significant units (BSUs), in conjunction with the State of Wyoming's core areas, upon issuance of any Wyoming Governor's Executive Order revising or amending the core area boundaries and upon completion of appropriate NEPA analysis and process. The BLM will complete the appropriate NEPA documentation (including appropriate public comment) prior to adopting any revised core area boundaries (e.g., maintenance action or plan amendment, environmental assessment, etc.).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 1: Within PHMA, specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: The BLM, in coordination with the State of Wyoming and its agencies, other local partners and stakeholders, will establish monitoring framework (Appendix D) for Greater Sage-Grouse populations and habitat that will be incorporated into individual project approvals, including small and in-house projects, as appropriate and necessary. Outside of PHMA and/or for values other than Greater Sage-Grouse, the following RMP decisions remain in effect with the modification described above: <u>Casper RMP:</u> Bates Hole and Fish Creek/Willow Creek: The areas will have priority for vegetation treatments to improve Greater Sage-Grouse habitats and for vegetation monitoring to ensure residual herbaceous vegetation is maintained for nesting cover on public lands.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD SSS 2: In PHMA (core only), the density of disturbance of an energy or mining facility (Appendix D) will be limited to an average of one site per square mile (640 acres) within the DDCT, subject to valid existing rights. The one location and cumulative value of existing disturbances will not exceed 5 percent of suitable habitat of the DDCT area. Inside PHMA, all suitable habitat disturbed (any program area) will not exceed 5 percent within the DDCT area using the DDCT process.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 3: Inside PHMA (connectivity only), all suitable habitat disturbed (any program area) will not exceed 5 percent of suitable habitat within the DDCT area using the DDCT process.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 4: Within PHMA, Specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: In undertaking BLM management actions, and, consistent with valid existing rights and applicable law, in authorizing third-party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation in PHMA, the BLM will require and ensure mitigation that provides a net conservation gain to the species including accounting for any uncertainty associated with the effectiveness of such mitigation. This will be achieved by avoiding, minimizing, and compensating for impacts by applying beneficial mitigation actions. In Wyoming, the USFWS has found that “the core area strategy, if implemented by all landowners via regulatory mechanism, would provide adequate protection for Greater Sage-Grouse and their habitats in the state.” The BLM will implement actions to achieve the goal of net conservation gain consistent with the Wyoming Strategy (EO2015-4) that includes “compensatory mitigation as a strategy that should be used when avoidance and minimization are inadequate to protect Core Population Area Greater sage-grouse.” Outside of PHMA and/or for values other than Greater Sage-Grouse, the following RMP decisions remain in effect with the modification described above: <u>Pinedale RMP:</u> Off-site mitigation proposed by oil and gas or other operators shall be considered and analyzed in future environmental documents as possible mitigation for proposed activities	Specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: Adopt the State of Wyoming’s Greater Sage-Grouse Compensatory Mitigation Framework to the extent consistent with federal law, regulations, and policy. In all Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, when authorizing third-party actions in designated Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, the BLM will seek to achieve the planning-level Greater Sage-Grouse management goals and objectives through implementation of mitigation and management actions, consistent with valid existing rights and applicable law. Under this Plan Amendment, management would be consistent with the Greater Sage-Grouse goals and objectives, and in conformance with BLM Manual 6840, Special Status Species Management. In accordance with BLM Manual 6840, the BLM will undertake planning decisions, actions and authorizations “to minimize or eliminate threats affecting the status of [Greater Sage-Grouse] or to improve the condition of [Greater Sage-Grouse] habitat” across the planning area.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
within the planning area. Proposed off-site mitigation will be described and analyzed for effectiveness in detail on a project-specific basis. Planning for off-site mitigation will be performed in coordination with local government agencies. The need for off-site mitigation will be determined in conformance with current BLM policy, as updated. The order of use of mitigation methods from most to least preferred is as follows: 1. On-site mitigation directly resolving impacts created by the action 2. Off-site mitigation to the resources affected by the action that cannot be resolved on-site 3. Off-site mitigation to similar or related resources affected by the action that cannot be resolved on-site. The following stipulations apply to off-site mitigation measures: 1. Off-site mitigation will be used as a last choice when developing mitigation measures. 2. Off-site mitigation proposals will describe the replacement or substitution activities or methods that are used to address potential impacts on specific resources or environments or both. 3. Off-site mitigation must be as close to “in-kind” in replacement or substitution of resources, habitat function, or environments as practicable (e.g., elk habitat for elk habitat, historical properties for historical properties). 4. Off-site mitigation practices must last as long as the impacts are expected to occur. 5. Off-site mitigation practices are to be developed, conducted or performed, and funded by the project proponent. 6. Off-site mitigation activities must be conducted subject to BLM review and approval that the mitigation will actually address the impacts occurring on the public lands. The priority order for mitigating resource impacts on-site or off-site is as follows: 1. On-site Mitigation – On-site (avoid, minimize, rectify, or reduce in time). 2. Off-site Mitigation – Local (unless greater resource benefits can be achieved through regional or interstate mitigation).	Accordingly, before authorizing third-party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation, the BLM will complete the following steps, in alignment with the Governor of Wyoming’s Executive Order 2015-4 (July 29, 2015): 1. Work jointly with the WGFD to evaluate projects and recommend mitigation in the form of avoidance and minimization. 2. The WGFD will determine if the State requires or recommends any additional mitigation – including compensatory mitigation – under State regulations, policies, or programs related to the conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse. 3. Incorporate state required or recommended mitigation into the BLM’s NEPA decision-making process, if the WGFD determines that compensatory mitigation is required to address impacts to GRSG habitat as a part of State policy or authorization, or if a proponent voluntarily offers mitigation. 4. Analyze whether the compensatory mitigation (deferring to the appropriate State authority to quantify habitat offsets, durability, and other aspects used to determine the recommended compensatory mitigation action): • achieves measurable outcomes for Greater Sage-Grouse habitat function on a landscape scale as determined by WGFD that are at least equal to the lost or degraded values in accordance with the Governor of Wyoming’s Executive Order 2015-4.	(See above.)

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3. Off-site Mitigation – Regional (unless greater resource benefits can be achieved through interstate mitigation). 4. Off-site Mitigation – Interstate: The preferred area for conducting off-site mitigation is as near (local off-site mitigation) to the project or affected area as possible or as scientific information and impact analysis suggests. 5. Off-site Mitigation – Interstate: The preferred area for conducting off-site mitigation is as near (local off-site mitigation) to the project or affected area as possible or as scientific information and impact analysis suggests.	• provides benefits that are in place for at least the duration of the impacts • accounts for a level of risk that the mitigation action may fail or not persist for the full duration of the impact 5. Ensure mitigation outcomes are consistent with the State of Wyoming's mitigation strategy and principles outlined in 2019 GrSG ARMPA Appendix C, The Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management Strategy The BLM has determined that, except where the law specifically requires, compensatory mitigation must be voluntary unless required by other applicable law and in recognition that State authorities may also require compensatory mitigation (IM 2019-018, <i>Compensatory Mitigation</i>, December 6, 2018). Therefore, consistent with valid existing rights and applicable law, when authorizing third-party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation, the BLM will consider voluntary compensatory mitigation actions only as a component of compliance with a State mitigation plan, program, or authority, or when offered voluntarily by a project proponent. Project-specific analysis will be necessary to determine how a compensatory mitigation proposal addresses impacts from a proposed action. The BLM will cooperate with the State to determine appropriate project design and alignment with State policies and requirements, including those regarding compensatory mitigation. When the BLM is considering compensatory mitigation as a component of the project proponent's submission or based	(See above.)

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
(See above.)	on a mitigation requirement from the State, the BLM's NEPA analysis would evaluate the need to avoid or minimize impacts of the proposed project and achieve the goals and objectives of this RMPA. The BLM will defer to the appropriate State authority to quantify habitat offsets, durability, and other aspects used to determine the recommended compensatory mitigation action.	(See above.)
MD SSS 5: Greater Sage-Grouse leks inside PHMA: Surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities will be prohibited on or within a 0.6-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (Map 2-8). The AO may grant an exception if an environmental record of review determines that the action, as proposed or conditioned, will not impair the function or utility of the site for the current or subsequent seasonal habitat, life-history, or behavioral needs of Greater Sage-Grouse.	Greater Sage-Grouse leks inside PHMA: Surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities will be prohibited on or within a 0.6-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped) (Map 2-8). The authorized officer may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis subject to appropriate site-specific analysis, mitigation requirements, and consultation with the State of Wyoming and consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming's Executive Order 2015-4) (see MD SSS 4).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 6: Greater Sage-Grouse leks outside PHMA: Surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities will be prohibited on or within a 0.25-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (Map 2-8). The AO may grant an exception if an environmental record of review determines that the action, as proposed or conditioned, will not impair the function or utility of the site for the current or subsequent seasonal habitat, life-history, or behavioral needs of Greater Sage-Grouse.	Greater Sage-Grouse leks outside PHMA: Surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities will be prohibited on or within a 0.25-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped) (Map 2-8). The authorized officer may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis subject to appropriate site-specific analysis, mitigation requirements, and consultation with the State of Wyoming and consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming's Executive Order 2015-4)(see MD SSS 4).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD SSS 7: Greater Sage-Grouse breeding, nesting, and early brood-rearing habitat inside PHMA (core only): Surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities will be prohibited from March 15–June 30 to protect Greater Sage-Grouse breeding, nesting, and early brood rearing habitat. This timing limitation will be applied throughout the PHMA (core only). Activities in unsuitable habitats will be evaluated under the exception and modification criteria and shall be allowed on a case by case basis. Where credible data support different timeframes for this seasonal restriction, dates may be expanded by up to 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates.	Greater Sage-Grouse breeding, nesting, and early brood-rearing habitat inside PHMA (core only): Surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities will be prohibited from March 15–June 30 to protect Greater Sage-Grouse breeding, nesting, and early brood rearing habitat. This timing limitation will be applied throughout the PHMA (core only). The authorized officer may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis subject to appropriate site-specific analysis, mitigation requirements, and consultation with the State of Wyoming and consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming’s Executive Order 2015-4) (see MD SSS 4).-Where credible data support different timeframes for this seasonal restriction, dates may be expanded by up to 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates, but not both.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD SSS 8: Sage-Grouse breeding, nesting, and early brood-rearing habitat inside PHMA (connectivity only): Surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities will be prohibited within PHMA (connectivity only) from March 15–June 30 to protect breeding, nesting, and early brood-rearing habitats within 4 miles of the lek or lek perimeter of any occupied Greater Sage-Grouse lek within identified PHMA (connectivity only). This timing limitation will be applied throughout the PHMA (connectivity only). Activities in unsuitable habitats will be evaluated under the exception and modification criteria and may be allowed on a case-by-case basis. Where credible data support different timeframes for this seasonal restriction, dates can be shifted by 14 days prior or subsequent to the above dates.	Greater Sage-Grouse breeding, nesting, and early brood-rearing habitat inside PHMA (connectivity only): Surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities will be prohibited from March 15–June 30 to protect breeding, nesting, and early brood-rearing habitats within 4 miles of the perimeter of any occupied Greater Sage-Grouse lek (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped) within identified PHMA (connectivity only). The authorized officer may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis subject to appropriate site-specific analysis, mitigation requirements, and consultation with the State of Wyoming and consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming’s Executive Order 2015-4) (see MD SSS 4).-Where credible data support different timeframes for this seasonal restriction, dates can be shifted by 14 days prior or subsequent to the above dates, but not both.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD SSS 9: Greater Sage-Grouse breeding, nesting, and early brood-rearing habitat outside PHMA: Surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities will be prohibited from March 15—June 30 to protect Greater Sage-Grouse nesting and early brood rearing habitat within 2 miles of the lek or lek perimeter of an occupied lek located outside PHMA. Where credible data support different timeframes for this seasonal restriction, dates may be expanded up to 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates.	Greater Sage-Grouse breeding, nesting, and early brood-rearing habitat outside PHMA: Surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities will be prohibited from March 15—June 30 to protect Greater Sage-Grouse breeding, nesting, and early brood rearing habitat within 2 miles of the perimeter of an occupied lek (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped) located outside PHMA. The authorized officer may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis subject to appropriate site-specific analysis, mitigation requirements, and consultation with the State of Wyoming and consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming's Executive Order 2015-4) (see MD SSS 4). Where credible data support different timeframes for this seasonal restriction, dates may be expanded up to 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates but not both.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD SSS 10: Sage-Grouse Winter Concentration Areas: Surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities in Greater Sage-Grouse winter concentration areas would be prohibited from December 1—March 14. Activities in unsuitable habitats within PHMA would be evaluated under the exception and modification criteria and could be allowed on a case-by-case basis. Protection of additional mapped winter concentration areas in GHMA would be implemented where winter concentration areas are identified as supporting populations of Greater Sage-Grouse that attend leks within PHMA (core only). Appropriate seasonal timing restrictions and habitat protection measures would be considered and evaluated on consultation with the WGFD in all identified winter concentration areas.	Greater Sage-Grouse Winter Concentration Areas: Surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities in Greater Sage-Grouse winter concentration areas would be prohibited from December 1—March 14. The authorized officer may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis subject to appropriate site-specific analysis, mitigation requirements, and consultation with the State of Wyoming and consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming's Executive Order 2015-4) (see MD SSS 4). Protection of additional mapped winter concentration areas in GHMA would be implemented where winter concentration areas are mapped and designated by the State of Wyoming. Appropriate seasonal timing restrictions and habitat protection measures would be considered and evaluated on consultation with the WGFD in all identified winter concentration areas.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SSS 11: The BLM will support other agencies in their efforts to minimize impacts from predators. The BLM will implement strategies and techniques in land management decisions that address predators shown to pose a threat to Greater Sage-Grouse (Appendix N). The BLM will support and encourage other agencies in their efforts to minimize impacts from predators on Greater Sage-Grouse where needs have been documented.	The BLM will support other agencies in their efforts to minimize impacts from predators. The BLM will implement strategies and techniques in land management decisions that address predators shown to pose a threat to Greater Sage-Grouse (2015 ARMPA Appendix N). The BLM will support and encourage other agencies in their efforts to minimize impacts from predators on Greater Sage-Grouse where needs have been documented.	No change proposed.

2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD SSS 12: New project noise levels, either individual or cumulative, should not exceed 10 dBA (as measured by L50) above baseline noise at the perimeter of the lek from 6:00 pm to 8:00 am during the breeding season (March 1–May 15). Specific noise protocols for measurement and implementation will be developed as additional research and information emerges.	Within PHMA (core only), new project noise levels, either individual or cumulative, should not exceed 10 dBA (as measured by L50) above baseline noise at the perimeter of the lek (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped) from 6:00 pm to 8:00 am during the breeding season (March 1–May 15). The authorized officer may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis subject to appropriate site-specific analysis, mitigation requirements, and consultation with the State of Wyoming and consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming’s Executive Order 2015-4) (see MD SSS 4). In coordination with the State of Wyoming, specific noise protocols for measurement and implementation will be developed as additional research and information emerges. These measures would be considered at the site-specific project level where and when appropriate.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD SSS 13: The Greater Sage-Grouse adaptive management plan (Appendix D) provides a means of addressing and responding to unintended negative impacts on Greater Sage-Grouse, and its habitat will be addressed before consequences become severe or irreversible. The Wyoming Greater Sage-Grouse ARMPA will include the requirement for projects requiring an EIS to develop adaptive management strategies in support of the population management objectives for Greater Sage-Grouse set by the State of Wyoming. Wyoming ADPPs will include an adaptive management plan, as reviewed by the BLM WO, Solicitor's Office, and USFWS, which includes: Upon determination that a hard trigger is tripped, the BLM will immediately defer issuance of discretionary authorizations for new actions for a period of 90 days. In addition, within 14 days of a determination, the AMWG will convene to develop an interim response strategy and initiate an assessment to determine the causal factors. Adaptive management triggers are essential for identifying when potential management changes are needed in order to continue meeting Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives. With respect to Greater Sage-Grouse, all regulatory entities in Wyoming, including the BLM, use soft and hard triggers. Soft and hard triggers are focused on three metrics: 1) number of active leks, 2) acres of available habitat, and 3) population trends based on annual lek counts. In making amendments to this plan, the BLM will coordinate with the USFWS as the BLM continues to meet its objective of conserving, enhancing, and restoring Greater Sage-Grouse habitat by reducing, minimizing, or eliminating threats to that habitat. The hard and soft trigger data will be analyzed as soon as it becomes available after the signing of the ROD and then at a minimum, analyzed annually thereafter. <u>Soft Triggers:</u> Soft triggers are indicators that management or specific activities may not be achieving the intended results of conservation action or that unanticipated changes to populations or habitats have occurred that have the potential to place habitats or populations at risk. The soft trigger is any deviation from normal	The Greater Sage-Grouse adaptive management plan (2019 Wyoming GrSG ARMPA Appendix C) provides a means of addressing and responding to unintended negative impacts on Greater Sage-Grouse, and its habitat will be addressed before consequences become severe or irreversible. The Wyoming Greater Sage-Grouse ARMPA will include the requirement for projects requiring an EIS to develop adaptive management strategies in support of the population management objectives for Greater Sage-Grouse set by the State of Wyoming. Wyoming ADPPs will include an adaptive management plan, as reviewed by the BLM WO, Solicitor's Office, and USFWS, which includes: Upon determination that a hard trigger is tripped, the BLM will immediately defer issuance of discretionary authorizations for new actions for a period of 90 days. In addition, within 14 days of a determination, the AMWG will convene to develop an interim response strategy and initiate an assessment to determine the causal factors. The AMWG would define a process to review and reverse adaptive management actions once the identified causal factor is resolved (e.g., returning to previous management once objectives of interim management strategy have been met). Adaptive management triggers are essential for identifying when potential management changes are needed in order to continue meeting Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives. With respect to Greater Sage-Grouse, all regulatory entities in Wyoming, including the BLM, use soft and hard triggers. Soft and hard triggers are focused on three	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
trends in habitat or population in any given year. Metrics include, but are not limited to, annual lek counts, wing counts, aerial surveys, habitat monitoring, and DDCT evaluations. BLM field offices, with the assistance of their respective land and resource management plan implementation groups, local WGFD offices, and local Greater Sage-Grouse working groups, will evaluate the metrics with the AMWG on an annual basis. For population metrics, normal population trends are calculated as the 5-year running mean of annual population counts. The purpose of these strategies is to address localized Greater Sage-Grouse population and habitat changes by providing the framework in which management will change if monitoring identifies negative population and habitat anomalies in order to avoid crossing a hard trigger threshold. <u>Hard Triggers:</u> Hard triggers are indicators that management is not achieving desired conservation results. Hard triggers will be considered a catastrophic indicator that the species is not responding to conservation actions, or that a larger-scale impact or set of impacts is having a negative effect. Within the range of normal population variables (5-year running mean of annual population counts), hard triggers shall be determined to take effect when two of the three metrics exceeds 60 percent of normal variability for the area under management in a single year, or when any of the three metrics exceeds 40 percent of normal variability for a 3-year time period within a 5-year range of analysis. A minimum of 3 consecutive years in a 5-year period is used to determine trends (i.e., Y1-2-3, Y2-3-4, Y3-4-5).	metrics: 1) number of active leks, 2) acres of available habitat, and 3) population trends based on annual lek counts. In making amendments to this plan, the BLM will coordinate with the USFWS as the BLM continues to meet its objective of conserving, enhancing, and restoring Greater Sage-Grouse habitat by reducing, minimizing, or eliminating threats to that habitat. The hard and soft trigger data will be analyzed as soon as it becomes available after the signing of the ROD and then at a minimum, analyzed annually thereafter. <u>Soft Triggers:</u> Soft triggers are indicators that management or specific activities may not be achieving the intended results of conservation action or that unanticipated changes to populations or habitats have occurred that have the potential to place habitats or populations at risk. The soft trigger is any deviation from normal trends in habitat or population in any given year. Metrics include, but are not limited to, annual lek counts, wing counts, aerial surveys, habitat monitoring, and DDCT evaluations. BLM field offices, with the assistance of their respective land and resource management plan implementation groups, local WGFD offices, and local Greater Sage-Grouse working groups, will evaluate the metrics with the AMWG on an annual basis. For population metrics, normal population trends are calculated as the 5-year running mean of annual population counts. The purpose of these strategies is to address localized Greater Sage-Grouse population and habitat changes by providing the framework in which management will change if monitoring identifies negative population and	(See above.)

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
(See above.)	habitat anomalies in order to avoid crossing a hard trigger threshold. <u>Hard Triggers:</u> Hard triggers are indicators that management is not achieving desired conservation results. Hard triggers will be considered a catastrophic indicator that the species is not responding to conservation actions, or that a larger-scale impact or set of impacts is having a negative effect. Within the range of normal population variables (5-year running mean of annual population counts), hard triggers shall be determined to take effect when two of the three metrics exceeds 60 percent of normal variability for the area under management in a single year, or when any of the three metrics exceeds 40 percent of normal variability for a 3-year time period within a 5-year range of analysis. A minimum of 3 consecutive years in a 5-year period is used to determine trends (i.e., Y1-2-3, Y2-3-4, Y3-4-5).	(See above.)
MD SSS 14: Designate SFAs as shown on Map 1-2 (1,915,990 acres). SFAs will be managed as PHMA, with the following additional management: Recommended for withdrawal from the General Mining Act of 1872, subject to valid existing rights, the lands shown in Map 2-3 (252,160 acres), and 2) Prioritized for vegetation management and conservation actions in these areas, including, but not limited to land health assessments, wild horse and burro management actions, review of livestock grazing permits/leases, and habitat restoration (see specific management sections).	Lands identified as Sagebrush Focal Areas (SFAs) will no longer be designated as SFAs. Lands previously identified as SFAs will be managed as Priority Habitat Management Areas (PHMAs), consistent with Core Area boundaries.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD VEG 1: Manage vegetation composition, diversity, and structure, as determined by ESD, or other methods that reference site potential, and WGFD protocols, to achieve Greater Sage-Grouse habitat management objectives, in cooperation with stakeholders.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD VEG 2: Within PHMA in northeast Wyoming (as mapped in EO 2015-4), vegetation treatments in nesting and wintering habitat that will reduce sagebrush canopy to less than 15 percent will not be conducted.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD VEG 3: Within PHMA, specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: For vegetation treatments in sagebrush within PHMA, refer to 2015 ARMPA Appendix H, WGFD Protocols for Treating Sagebrush to Benefit Sage-Grouse (WGFD 2011, as updated) and BLM Washington Office Instruction Memorandum 2013-128 (Sage-grouse Conservation Related to Wildland Fire and Fuels Management). These recommended protocols will be used in determining whether proposed treatment constitutes a “disturbance” that will contribute toward the 5 percent threshold within PHMA maintenance. Additionally, these protocols will be used to determine whether the proposed treatment configuration is expected to have neutral or beneficial impacts for PHMA (core only) populations or if they represent additional habitat loss or fragmentation. Treatments to enhance sagebrush/grasslands habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse will be evaluated based on habitat quality and the functionality/use of treated habitats post-treatment. The BLM will work collaboratively with partners at the state and local level to maintain and enhance Greater Sage-Grouse habitats. Seasonal restriction would be applied, as needed, for implementing fuels management treatments according to the type of seasonal habitat present. Outside of PHMA and/or for values other than Greater Sage-Grouse, the following RMP decisions remain in effect with the modification described above: <u>Green River RMP:</u> Prescribed burns generally will be conducted in areas having greater than 35 percent sagebrush composition, 20 percent desirable grass composition, and greater than 10 inches of precipitation. Other vegetation manipulation methods will be considered on a case-by-case basis depending on objectives and cost benefits.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
<u>Casper RMP:</u> Decision 4053: The areas (Bates Hole and Fish Creek/Willow Creek) will have priority for vegetative treatments to improve Greater Sage-Grouse habitats and for vegetation monitoring to ensure residual herbaceous vegetation is maintained for nesting cover on public lands.	(See above.)	(See above.)
MD VEG 4: Within PHMA, grazing will be deferred on treated areas for two full growing seasons unless vegetation objectives or vegetation recovery indicates a shorter or longer rest period is necessary based on vegetation monitoring results.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD VEG 5: Reclamation of surface disturbances in PHMA will be consistent with the Wyoming Reclamation Policy (BLM 2009a), vegetation objectives (Table 2-2 and 2-3), and Appendix M. A monitoring plan will be developed for each restoration or reclamation project and will report progress and changes in resource condition.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD VEG 6: Areas for vegetation restoration and/or restoration criteria that include state Greater Sage-Grouse conservation plans and appropriate local information will be identified. The use of native plants and seeds for restoration will be required unless the probability for success is low (nonnative plants and seeds may be used as long as they meet Greater Sage-Grouse habitat objectives), and restoration management will be designed to obtain long-term persistence based on ESD. Reestablishment of sagebrush cover and desirable understory plants will be the highest priority for restoration efforts. Landscape patterns that most benefit Greater Sage-Grouse will be restored and created, considering potential changes in climate.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 7: Within PHMA, implementation of restoration projects will be prioritized based on environmental variables that improve chances for project success in areas most likely to benefit Greater Sage-Grouse. Restoration will be prioritized in seasonal habitats that are thought to be limiting Greater Sage-Grouse distribution and/or abundance.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD VEG 8: Within PHMA, specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: Where probability of success or native seed availability is low or where there is a specific identified purpose that cannot be met with natives, nonnative seeds can be used provided they meet Greater Sage-Grouse habitat conservation and vegetation (see Tables 2-2 and 2-3) objectives. The use of native seeds for fuels management treatment will be prioritized based on availability, adaptation (site potential), and probability of success. Where probability of success or native seed availability is low, non- native seeds may be used to meet Greater Sage-Grouse habitat objectives to trend toward restoring the fire regime. When reseeding, use fire resistant native and nonnative species, as appropriate, to provide for fuel breaks. Native seed allocation will be prioritized for use in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat. Outside of PHMA and/or for values other than Greater Sage-Grouse, the following RMP decisions remain in effect with the modification described above: <u>Kemmerer RMP:</u> Require the use of certified weed-free seed and mulch for rehabilitation projects. <u>Pinedale RMP:</u> Disturbed areas will be reclaimed to native site plant composition. If reclamation of original plant composition is impossible or not desirable, reclamation will achieve a native plant community that meets the Wyoming Standards for Rangeland Health.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD VEG 9: Post emergency stabilization and rehabilitation (ES&R) and burn area emergency rehabilitation (BAER) management will be designed to ensure long-term persistence of seeded or pre-burn native plants. This may require temporary or long-term changes in livestock grazing, wild horse, and travel management, etc., to achieve and maintain the desired condition of ES&R and BAER projects to benefit Greater Sage-Grouse (Eiswerth and Shonkwiler 2006).	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD VEG 10: Evaluate the role of existing seedings that are currently composed of primarily introduced perennial grasses in and adjacent to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat to determine if they should be restored to sagebrush or habitat of higher quality for Greater Sage-Grouse. If these seedings provide value in conserving or enhancing Greater Sage-Grouse habitats, then no restoration would be necessary. Assess the compatibility of these seedings for Greater Sage-Grouse habitat during the land health assessments.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 11: Priority will be given for implementing specific Greater Sage-Grouse habitat restoration projects in areas invaded by annual grasses first to sites that are adjacent to or surrounded by PHMA. Areas invaded by annual grasses will be second priority for restoration when the sites are not adjacent to PHMA, but are within 2 miles of PHMA. The third priority for areas invaded by annual grasses habitat restoration projects will be sites beyond 2 miles of PHMA. The intent will be to focus restoration outward from existing, intact habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 12: In fire prone areas where sagebrush seed is required for Greater Sage-Grouse habitat restoration, the BLM will consider establishing seed harvest areas that are managed for seed production and are a priority for protection from outside disturbances.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 13: Vegetation treatment proposals must include evaluation of soils, precipitation, invasive/exotic plants, as well as the current condition of PHMA. Avoid aerial pesticide/herbicide spraying in favor of ground applications to minimize drift into nontarget areas in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat unless benefits of treatments are likely to outweigh impacts.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VEG 14: Treat areas that contain cheatgrass and other invasive or noxious species to minimize competition and favor establishment of desired species.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD VEG 15: Within PHMA, specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: The BLM can implement treatments within PHMA where outbreaks of grasshopper or Mormon cricket populations are expected to rise above economic levels. Treatments must be conducted only following reduced agent-area treatments protocols. The BLM will work collaboratively with partners at the federal, state, and local levels, including the Wyoming Weed and Pest Districts within the counties where the treatment is to occur, to maintain and enhance Greater Sage-Grouse habitats in a manner consistent with the core population area strategy for conservation. The BLM will be directed to utilize the Wyoming Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket Control website as a resource for updated information when conducting analysis of grasshopper and Mormon cricket control in Greater Sage-Grouse habitats. Avoid aerial pesticide/herbicide spraying in favor of ground applications to minimize drift into nontarget areas in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat unless benefits of treatments are likely to outweigh impacts. Outside of PHMA and/or for values other than Greater Sage-Grouse, the following RMP decisions remain in effect with the modification described above: <u>Casper RMP:</u> Work with Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to control outbreaks of grasshoppers and Mormon crickets on public lands in the planning area in accordance with the MOU between U.S. Department of the Interior and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 1: Within PHMA, specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: For Wildland Fire Management, the protection of human life is the single, overriding priority. Setting priorities among protecting human communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources will be done based on the values to be protected, human health and safety, and the costs of protection. The goal is to restore, enhance, and maintain areas suitable for Greater Sage-Grouse. Greater Sage-Grouse habitat (GHMA) will be	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
prioritized commensurate with local fire plans, property values and other important habitat to be protected, with the goal to restore, enhance, and maintain areas suitable for Greater Sage-Grouse. PHMA (and Priority Areas for Conservation, if so determined by individual RMP efforts) will be the highest priority for conservation and protection during fire operations and fuels management decision-making. The PHMA will be viewed as more valuable than GHMA when priorities are established. When suppression resources are widely available, maximum efforts will be placed on limiting fire growth in GHMA polygons as well. These priority areas will be further refined following completion of the Greater Sage-Grouse Landscape Wildfire and Invasive Species Habitat Assessments described in Appendix L. Outside of PHMA and/or for values other than Greater Sage-Grouse, the following RMP decisions remain in effect with the modification described above: Casper RMP: Appropriate management response will be used on all wildfires in the planning area. Full protection strategies and tactics will be used in the following areas: 1. Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) 2. Wildland industrial interface 3. Developed recreation sites 4. Developed electronics sites of all types. In all other areas appropriate management response (AMR) strategies and tactics will be determined by (but not limited to) the following: 1. Firefighter and public safety 2. Resource values at risk 3. Proximity to private land 4. Firefighting resource availability. Tactical constraints follow: 1. The use of retardant within 300 feet of surface water (standing or running) is prohibited. 2. No trees are to be cut during suppression activities within 200 yards of an identified bald eagle roost. No heavy equipment will be used within the following areas, except when human safety is at risk: 1. Areas of cultural resource sensitivity 2. Riparian/wetland habitats 3. Big game crucial winter range habitats	(See above.)	(See above.)

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
4. Greater Sage-Grouse leks 5. Areas of highly erosive soils. In areas not identified as full protection, heavy equipment usage will be limited to existing roads and trails or immediately adjacent to them. <u>Kemmerer RMP:</u> In areas of high-density urban and (or) industrial interface with intermingled BLM-administered lands, suppression objectives will follow the AMR in an approved fire management plan for the planning area to provide first for human health and safety, while minimizing loss of property and threats to other surface owners. Generally, wildland fires are suppressed in these areas. In areas of low-density urban and (or) industrial interface where BLM-administered lands occur in large contiguous blocks, fire suppression objectives will follow the AMR in an approved fire management plan for the planning area to provide first for human health and safety, while allowing for achievement of resource objectives. <u>Newcastle RMP:</u> Full suppression will be used on fires endangering human life or that spread to within 0.25 miles of state or private lands, structures and facilities, oil and gas fields, important riparian habitat, or other sensitive resources. All wildfires will be evaluated to determine the need for rehabilitation or restoration measures. Restoration of burned areas will be by natural succession unless a special need is identified to prevent further resource damage. <u>Pinedale RMP:</u> Wildland fire mitigation and fuels activities will be managed to provide for firefighter and public safety as a first priority. Public lands within intermixed land ownership areas will be managed in association with the adjoining and nearby private and state lands. Areas of mixed land ownership, communities at risk as identified in the <i>Federal Register</i>, Volume 66, Number 160, 2001 (Antelope Run, Beaver Creek area, Boulder, Cottonwood Creek, Daniel, Forty Rod, Hoback Ranches, New Fork, Pinedale, Pocket Creek, and Upper Green); urban and industrial interface areas; and areas containing high-priority resource values have high priority for response to wildland fires and/or	(See above.)	(See above.)

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
for fuels reduction and mitigation. Wildland fire suppression activities will be based on the AMR. <u>Rawlins RMP:</u> A high priority for fire management activities will be given to areas identified as communities at risk, industrial interface areas, and areas containing resource values considered high priority within the RMP planning area. <u>Green River RMP:</u> Wildfire suppression will emphasize AMR. Immediate control actions will be used only in cases of arson, direct threat to public safety, or a strong potential threaten structural property. Fire suppression actions will be based on achieving the most efficient control and allowing historical acres burned to increase. Activity plans will be developed for designated fire management areas defining specific parameters for all fire occurrences. <u>JMH CAP:</u> Appropriate management response to protect the basin big sagebrush/lemon scurfpea plant communities will be applied. Wildland and prescribed fires will be managed in all vegetation types to maintain or improve biological diversity and the overall health of the public lands. In particular, plant species and age class diversity will be a priority; thus, AMR for all wildland fires will be identified and implemented depending on the resources and management objectives for the area. Suppression techniques and hazardous fuels reduction activities will be identified to reduce wildland fire severity and occurrence on portions of the landscape where fire causes undesirable changes in plant community composition and structure. A site-specific analysis will be prepared for sensitive resource areas, such as special status plant species sites, heritage sites, historic trails, and areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs), to determine the type of fire suppression activity that will be acceptable. Fire equipment and fire suppression techniques, such as vegetation clearing, will be limited to existing roads and trails in special status plant species habitat. As appropriate, the Fire Management Plan will be updated to reflect the appropriate suppression activity in sensitive resource areas.	(See above.)	(See above.)

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD FIRE 2: In PHMA, fuels treatments will be designed and implemented with an emphasis on protecting existing sagebrush ecosystems and enhancing and protecting future sagebrush ecosystems (refer to WGFD Protocols for Treating Sagebrush to Benefit Sage-grouse [WGFD 2011, as updated]) and 2015 ARMPA Appendix H. These recommended protocols will be used in determining whether proposed treatment constitutes a “disturbance” that will contribute toward the 5 percent threshold for habitat maintenance. Fuel treatments will be designed through an interdisciplinary process to expand, enhance, maintain, and protect Greater Sage-Grouse habitat. Green strips (using native fire resistant/resilient species) and/or fuel breaks will be used, where appropriate, to protect seeding efforts from subsequent fire events. In coordination with the USFWS and relevant state agencies, BLM planning units (Districts) with large blocks of Greater Sage-Grouse habitat will develop, using the assessment process described in 2015 ARMPA Appendix L, a fuels management strategy which considers an up-to-date fuels profile, land use plan direction, current and potential habitat fragmentation, sagebrush and Greater Sage-Grouse ecological factors, and active vegetation management steps to provide critical breaks in fuel continuity, where appropriate. When developing this strategy, planning units will consider the risk of increased habitat fragmentation from a proposed action versus the risk of large scale fragmentation posed by wildfires if the action is not taken. Utilizing an interdisciplinary approach, a full range of fuel reduction techniques will be available. Fuel reduction techniques such as grazing, prescribed fire, chemical, biological, and mechanical treatments will be acceptable. Upon project completion, fuels projects will be monitored and managed to ensure long-term success, including persistence of seeded species and/or other treatment components. Invasive vegetation post-treatment will be controlled. Wildfire prevention plans will be developed that explain the resource value of Greater Sage-Grouse habitat and include fire prevention messages and actions to reduce human-caused ignitions.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD FIRE 3: Within PHMA, specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: For fuels management, the BLM will consider multiple tools for fuels reduction and will analyze in NEPA compliance documentation before electing to implement prescribed fire in PHMA. If prescribed fire is used in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan will address: • Why alternative techniques were not selected as a viable options • How Greater Sage-Grouse goals and objectives will be met by its use • How the COT (Conservation Objectives Team) report objectives will be addressed and met • A risk assessment to address how potential threats to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat will be minimized. Prescribed fire as a vegetation or fuels treatment shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Prescribed fire can be used to meet specific fuels objectives that protect Greater Sage-Grouse habitat in PHMA (e.g., creation of fuel breaks that disrupt the fuel continuity across the landscape in stands where annual invasive grasses are a minor component in the understory, burning slash piles from conifer reduction treatments, used as a component with other treatment methods to combat annual grasses and restore native plant communities). Prescribed fire in known winter range shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Any prescribed fire in winter habitat will need to be designed to strategically reduce wildfire risk around and/or in the winter range and designed to protect winter range habitat quality. Refer to 2015 ARMPA Appendix H, WGFD Protocols for Treating Sagebrush to Benefit Sage-grouse (WGFD 2011, as updated) and BLM Washington Office Instruction Memorandum 2013-128. If prescribed fire activities are not in compliance with these protocols, the treatment will be considered a PHMA disturbance.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Outside of PHMA and/or for values other than Greater Sage-Grouse, the following RMP decisions remain in effect with the modification described above: <u>Casper RMP:</u> Use prescribed burning to achieve measurable 5th-order watershed objectives from (1) other resources, including, but not limited to, forestry, wildlife, range, vegetation, and watershed; (2) the reduction of hazardous fuels; and (3) the introduction of fire into fire-adapted ecosystems. <u>Green River RMP/JMH CAP:</u> Prescribed fire will generally be the preferred method of vegetation manipulation to convert decadent stands of brushland to grasslands and to stimulate sprouting of old, decadent aspen stands and/or shrub species. Prescribed burns are preferred in areas having greater than 35 percent sagebrush composition, 20 percent desirable grass composition, and greater than 10 inches of precipitation. <u>Rawlins RMP:</u> Fuel treatments, including prescribed fire, mechanical, chemical, and biological treatments will be used for fuels reduction and to meet other multiple-use resource objectives, including returning fire to its natural role in the ecosystem. WUIs and communities at risk will receive priority for fuels reduction.	(See above.)	(See above.)

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD FIRE 4: Within PHMA, specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: Remove conifers encroaching into sagebrush habitats in a manner that considers tribal cultural values. Prioritize treatments closest to occupied Greater Sage-Grouse habitats and near occupied leks, and where juniper encroachment is phase 1 or phase 2. Use of site-specific analysis and principles like those included in the FIAT (Fire and Invasive Species Assessment) report (Chambers et. al., 2014) and other ongoing modeling efforts to address conifer encroachment will help refine the location for specific priority areas to be treated. Outside of PHMA and/or for values other than Greater Sage-Grouse, the following RMP decisions remain in effect with the modification described above: Casper RMP: Treat woodland encroachment in grassland, sagebrush, aspen, and other vegetative communities where it is determined to be detrimental to other resource values or uses. Manage 630,180 acres of sagebrush communities toward Desired Plant Community.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 5: The following RMP decisions remain in effect for both PHMA and GHMA: <u>Pinedale RMP:</u> In the WUI or industrial interface, fuels reduction methods best suited to the area will be used to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire to these areas. <u>Casper RMP:</u> Use prescribed burning to achieve measurable 5th-order watershed objectives from (1) other resources, including, but not limited to, forestry, wildlife, range, vegetation, and watershed; (2) the reduction of hazardous fuels; and (3) the introduction of fire into fire-adapted ecosystems. Utilize an integrated management technique approach (defined as prescribed fire, mechanical, chemical, or biological, followed by desired reseeding) to reduce fuels to protect high priority areas or resource values defined as, but not limited to the following: • Urban and industrial interface areas • Developed recreation areas • Commercial timber areas • Wildlife habitats • Range-improvement facilities	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
• Communication sites • Municipal watersheds. Decision 3008 Fuels Management. <u>Rawlins RMP:</u> A high priority for fire management activities will be given to areas identified as communities at risk, industrial interface areas, and areas containing resource values considered high priority within the RMP planning area. <u>JMH CAP:</u> Appropriate management response to protect the basin big sagebrush/lemon scurfpea plant communities will be applied. Wildland and prescribed fires will be managed in all vegetation types to maintain or improve biological diversity and the overall health of the public lands. In particular, plant species and age class diversity will be a priority; thus, AMR for all wildland fires will be identified and implemented depending on the resources and management objectives for the area. Suppression techniques and hazardous fuels reduction activities will be identified to reduce wildland fire severity and occurrence on portions of the landscape where fire can cause undesirable changes in plant community composition and structure. A site-specific analysis will be prepared for sensitive resource areas, such as special status plant species sites, heritage sites, historic trails, and ACECs, to determine the type of fire suppression activity that will be acceptable. Fire equipment and fire suppression techniques, such as vegetation clearing, will be limited to existing roads and trails in special status plant species habitat. As appropriate, the Fire Management Plan will be updated to reflect the appropriate suppression activity in sensitive resource areas.	(See above.)	(See above.)

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD FIRE 6: Within PHMA, specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: Burned areas within PHMA will be restored to suitable habitat with consideration given to ESDs, reference sites, site potential, habitat objectives and local variability. Outside of PHMA and/or for values other than Greater Sage-Grouse, the following RMP decisions remain in effect with the modification described above: Kemmerer RMP: Implement BLM Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation standards located in the DOI Interagency Burned Area Emergency Response Guidebook and BLM Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook on wildland fires to protect and sustain healthy ecosystems and protect life and property. Newcastle RMP: All wildfires will be evaluated to determine the need for rehabilitation or restoration measures. Restoration of burned areas will be by natural succession unless a special need is identified to prevent further resource damage. Rawlins RMP: Rehabilitation and restoration efforts specific to a fire event will be undertaken to protect and sustain ecosystems, public health and safety, and to help communities protect infrastructure.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FIRE 7: Within PHMA, post fuels management projects will be designed to ensure long-term persistence of seeded or pre-treatment native plants (while controlling for erosion and treating infestation of invasive plant species), to return to suitable sage-grouse habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD LG 1: The BLM policy in WO-IM-2009-007 and BLM Handbook H-4180-1 will be used to evaluate land health standards achievement in PHMA (core only) and, where not achieved, to determine if existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use on public lands are significant factors in failing to achieve the standards and conform with the guidelines, which through this process will identify appropriate actions to address nonachievement and nonconformance. When determining appropriate actions to address nonachievement of land health standards and nonconformance with the guidelines due to existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use, management actions including but not limited to the following will be considered singly or in combination: 1. Season or timing of use 2. Numbers of livestock (includes temporary nonuse or livestock removal) 3. Distribution of livestock use 4. Intensity of use 5. Kind of livestock (e.g., cattle, sheep, horses, llamas, alpacas and goats) 6. Class of livestock (e.g., yearlings versus cow calf pairs) 7. Range improvements. Refer to the document, "Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming's Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat" (Cagney et al. 2010) for guidance when considering appropriate management actions to achieve conformance.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD LG 2: Within PHMA the BLM will work cooperatively with permittees, lessees, and other landowners to develop voluntary grazing management strategies that integrate both public and private lands into single management units to improve Greater Sage-Grouse habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD LG 3: The following RMP decisions remain in effect: <u>Casper RMP:</u> Grazing leases will be adjusted where an evaluation of monitoring, field observations, or other data indicate changes, and either increases or decreases, in forage allocation are needed or when necessary or required by other applicable law or regulation. <u>Kemmerer RMP:</u> Vegetative communities will be managed in accordance with Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands. Appropriate livestock grazing management actions will be developed and integrated to address rangeland health standards, improve forage for livestock, and enhance rangeland health. <u>Newcastle RMP:</u> Any adjustments in livestock grazing use will be made as a result of monitoring and consultation with grazing permittees. Monitoring studies will be conducted using the current BLM-approved methodology. <u>Pinedale RMP:</u> Monitoring of the range and the vegetation resource will be conducted at a level sufficient to detect changes in grazing use, trend, and range conditions. Monitoring will be tied to land health standards and indicators that help determine change in status and progress toward meeting objectives. Data will be used to direct and support grazing management decisions consistent with national policy. <u>Rawlins RMP:</u> Livestock grazing will be managed to meet the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands. <u>Green River RMP/JMH CAP:</u> The kinds and seasons of livestock grazing use will continue to be licensed until monitoring, negotiation, consultation, or a change in resources conditions indicate that a modification is needed. Monitoring will be continued or initiated following adjustments in grazing use to assure that grazing and other management objectives are being met.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD LG 4: Within PHMA, all BLM use authorizations will contain terms and conditions regarding the actions needed to meet or progress toward meeting the habitat objectives. If monitoring data show the habitat objectives have not been met nor progress being made toward meeting them, there will be an evaluation and a determination made as to the cause. If it is determined that the authorized use is a significant factor in failing to achieve the standards for healthy rangelands, the use will be adjusted by the response specified in the instrument that authorized the use. The NEPA analysis for renewals and modifications of livestock grazing permits/leases that includes lands within SFAs and PHMA will include specific management thresholds based on GRSG habitat objectives (Tables 2-2 and 2-3) and Land Health Standards (43 CFR 4180.2), and one or more defined responses that will allow the authorizing officer to make adjustments to livestock grazing that have already been subjected to NEPA analysis.	Within PHMA, if monitoring data show the wildlife/special status species standard has not been met nor progress being made toward meeting that standard, there would be an evaluation and a determination made as to the cause. If it is determined that the current authorized livestock use is a significant causal factor in failing to achieve the wildlife/special status species standards, the BLM would address the achievement or progress toward achieving the LHSs (43 CFR 4180.2) and, if needed, Greater Sage-Grouse habitat maintenance or improvement. When NEPA analysis is required for a specific implementation action, one alternative would include mechanisms to make adjustments to meet or make progress toward meeting the wildlife/special status species standard. The analysis should also identify the BLM-approved data collection methodologies used for monitoring conditions and determining when adjustments are necessary. If current grazing management meets land health standards and provides for Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, there would be no need to analyze an alternative for Greater Sage-Grouse. Authorized uses in PHMA that incorporate habitat objectives for Greater Sage-Grouse must develop desired conditions based on Greater Sage-Grouse habitats present in the allotment and the ecological potential of sites that supports these habitats. Metrics used to monitor for objectives must be developed and inform the wildlife/SSS portion of the Standards for Healthy Rangelands. Within PHMA, seasonal habitat objectives for Greater Sage-	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
(See above.)	Grouse apply only to those habitats delineated within an allotment during the specific season (e.g., breeding season objectives during breeding season). Data needed to inform the relationship between the authorized use and habitat condition would come from sample locations that appropriately reflect the impact of the authorized use on habitat conditions. Data points should fall within Greater Sage-Grouse seasonal habitat areas and be collected on ecological sites that have the potential to produce Greater Sage-Grouse habitat.	(See above.)
MD LG 5: Within PHMA, specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: BLM monitoring would be used to evaluate progress toward achieving land health standards within PHMA and, where not achieved, to determine if existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use on public lands are significant factors in failing to meet, maintain or make progress toward achieving the standards and conform with the guidelines, which through this process will identify appropriate actions to address nonachievement and nonconformance. Allotments within SFAs, followed by those within PHMA, and focusing on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows, will be prioritized for field checks to help ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the grazing permits. Field checks include monitoring for actual use, utilization, and use supervision. The BLM would prioritize (1) the review of grazing permits/leases, in particular to determine if modification is necessary prior to renewal, and (2) the processing of grazing permits/leases in SFAs followed by PHMA outside of the SFAs. In setting workload priorities, precedence would be given to existing permits/leases in these areas not meeting LHSs, with focus on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows. The BLM may use other criteria for prioritization to respond to urgent natural resource concerns (e.g., fire) and legal obligations.	Within PHMA, specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: BLM monitoring would be used to evaluate progress toward achieving land health standards within PHMA and, where not achieved, to determine if existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use on public lands are significant factors in failing to meet, maintain or make progress toward achieving the standards and conform with the guidelines, which through this process will identify appropriate actions to address nonachievement and nonconformance. The BLM would prioritize (1) the review of grazing permits/leases, in particular to determine if modification is necessary prior to renewal, and (2) the processing of grazing permits/leases in PHMA. In setting workload priorities, precedence would be given to existing permits/leases in these areas not meeting LHSs, with focus on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows. The BLM may use other criteria for prioritization to respond to urgent natural	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Outside of PHMA and/or for values other than Greater Sage-Grouse, the following RMP decisions remain in effect with the modification described above: <u>Casper RMP:</u> Conversions in kinds of livestock and changes in season of use will be considered on a case-by-case basis through an environmental analysis. Such changes will be consistent with rangeland health objectives. Grazing leases will be adjusted to accurately reflect the kind of livestock use on public land in all allotments. <u>Kemmerer RMP:</u> Current amounts, kinds, and seasons of livestock grazing uses will be authorized until rangeland health standards assessment results and (or) monitoring indicates a grazing use adjustment is necessary, or that a kind and (or) class of livestock or season of use modification can be accommodated. <u>Newcastle RMP:</u> Any adjustments in livestock grazing use will be made as a result of monitoring and consultation with grazing permittees. Monitoring studies will be conducted using the current BLM-approved methodology. <u>Pinedale RMP:</u> Conversions from one type of livestock to another will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, including an environmental analysis, and will be authorized in conformance with the goals and objectives of the RMP. <u>Rawlins RMP:</u> The current amounts, kinds, and seasons of livestock grazing use will be authorized until monitoring, field observations, ecological site inventory, or other data acceptable to BLM indicates a grazing use adjustment is needed, as appropriate. Requests for changes in season-of use or kind-of-livestock will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Any decision regarding changes in grazing use will include cooperation, consultation, and coordination with the grazing permittees and the interested public. <u>Green River RMP:</u> The Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands (BLM 1997a) will apply to all resource uses on BLM- administered lands. These standards are the minimal acceptable conditions that address the health, productivity, and sustainability of the	resource concerns (e.g., fire) and legal obligations. Outside of PHMA and/or for values other than Greater Sage-Grouse, the following RMP decisions remain in effect with the modification described above: <u>Casper RMP:</u> Conversions in kinds of livestock and changes in season of use will be considered on a case-by-case basis through an environmental analysis. Such changes will be consistent with rangeland health objectives. Grazing leases will be adjusted to accurately reflect the kind of livestock use on public land in all allotments. <u>Kemmerer RMP:</u> Current amounts, kinds, and seasons of livestock grazing uses will be authorized until rangeland health standards assessment results and (or) monitoring indicates a grazing use adjustment is necessary, or that a kind and (or) class of livestock or season of use modification can be accommodated. <u>Newcastle RMP:</u> Any adjustments in livestock grazing use will be made as a result of monitoring and consultation with grazing permittees. Monitoring studies will be conducted using the current BLM-approved methodology. <u>Pinedale RMP:</u> Conversions from one type of livestock to another will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, including an environmental analysis, and will be authorized in conformance with the goals and objectives of the RMP. <u>Rawlins RMP:</u> The current amounts, kinds, and seasons of livestock grazing use will be authorized until monitoring, field observations, ecological site inventory, or other data acceptable to BLM	(See above.)

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
rangeland. The standards describe healthy rangelands rather than rangeland by-products. Achievement of a standard is determined through observing, measuring, and monitoring appropriate indicators. An indicator is a component of a system whose characteristics (e.g., presence, absence, quantity, and distribution) can be observed, measured, or monitored based on sound scientific principles. The standards will direct the management of public lands and focus the implementation of this activity plan toward the maintenance or attainment of healthy rangelands.	indicates a grazing use adjustment is needed, as appropriate. Requests for changes in season-of use or kind-of-livestock will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Any decision regarding changes in grazing use will include cooperation, consultation, and coordination with the grazing permittees and the interested public. <u>Green River RMP:</u> The Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands (BLM 1997a) will apply to all resource uses on BLM- administered lands. These standards are the minimal acceptable conditions that address the health, productivity, and sustainability of the rangeland. The standards describe healthy rangelands rather than rangeland by-products. Achievement of a standard is determined through observing, measuring, and monitoring appropriate indicators. An indicator is a component of a system whose characteristics (e.g., presence, absence, quantity, and distribution) can be observed, measured, or monitored based on sound scientific principles. The standards will direct the management of public lands and focus the implementation of this activity plan toward the maintenance or attainment of healthy rangelands.	(See above.)
MD LG 6: At the time a permittee or lessee voluntarily relinquishes a permit or lease, the BLM will consider whether the public lands where that permitted use was authorized should remain available for livestock grazing or be used for other resource management objectives, such as reserve common allotments or fire breaks. This does not apply to or impact grazing preference transfers, which are addressed in 43 CFR 41.10.2-3.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD LG 7: Within PHMA, specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: When periods of drought occur, where appropriate, the AO will evaluate strategies to address drought through coordination with grazing permittee/lessee and annual billings processes. In cooperation with livestock grazing permittees/lessees, drought contingency plans will be developed at the appropriate landscape unit that provide for a consistent/appropriate BLM response. Contingency plans shall establish strategies for addressing ongoing drought and post-drought recovery. Outside of PHMA and/or for values other than Greater Sage-Grouse, the following RMP decisions remain in effect with the modification described above: <u>Casper RMP:</u> Other management considerations for use of stock driveway withdrawals (SDW) will include providing emergency use for relief from fire, drought, or other natural causes or to meet management objectives in adjoining allotments that require rest. These other uses will be addressed on a case-by-case basis and may occur any time during the year provided the AO has determined adequate forage is available and it does not interfere with regular trail use. The decision determining there is adequate forage will be documented and filed in the appropriate SDW file. Consultation and coordination with livestock owners who regularly use the respective SDW will be made prior to authorizing this type of use. This use will be authorized in accordance with federal grazing regulations (also see MD LG 9). A drought contingency plan will be developed to maintain adequate habitat components for viable fish, wildlife, and SSS populations.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD LG 8: In GHMA and PHMA, existing range improvements (e.g., fences, livestock/wildlife watering facilities) would continue to be evaluated and modified when necessary. The potential risk to Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitats from existing structural range improvements will be evaluated. The potential for modification of those structural range improvements identified as posing a risk will be addressed. Supplements and supplemental feeding would continue to be authorized where appropriate. Outside of PHMA and GHMA, and/or for values other than Greater Sage-Grouse, the following RMP decisions remain in effect with the modification described above: <u>Casper RMP:</u> Identified hazard fences will be modified and new fences will be constructed in accordance with the BLM Fencing Handbook 1741-I. Decision 4010. Placement of salt, mineral, or forage supplements for livestock will not be allowed within 0.25 miles of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely affected. Forage supplements will be required to be “certified weed- free.” <u>Kemmerer RMP:</u> BLM fencing standards will be applied to newly constructed fences on BLM-administered lands within the planning area. Existing fences will be eliminated or modified to reduce conflicts on a case-by-case basis. Livestock salt or mineral supplements will be located a minimum of 0.25 miles away from water sources, riparian areas, and aspen stands. Buffers will be based on resource concerns on a case-by-case basis. <u>Newcastle RMP:</u> Fence construction will be required to meet current BLM fence standards. Fences on BLM-administered land surface that cause documented wildlife conflicts will be removed, reconstructed, or modified, as appropriate or necessary, to eliminate or reduce the conflict. Construction of fences that interfere with movements of big game species in crucial big game winter range will not be allowed on BLM-administered land surface.	In PHMA, existing range improvements (e.g., fences, livestock/wildlife watering facilities) would continue to be evaluated and modified when necessary. Supplements and supplemental feeding would continue to be authorized where appropriate. Outside of PHMA and GHMA, and/or for values other than Greater Sage-Grouse, the following RMP decisions remain in effect with the modification described above: <u>Casper RMP:</u> Identified hazard fences will be modified and new fences will be constructed in accordance with the BLM Fencing Handbook 1741-I. Decision 4010. Placement of salt, mineral, or forage supplements for livestock will not be allowed within 0.25 miles of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely affected. Forage supplements will be required to be “certified weed- free.” <u>Kemmerer RMP:</u> BLM fencing standards will be applied to newly constructed fences on BLM-administered lands within the planning area. Existing fences will be eliminated or modified to reduce conflicts on a case-by-case basis. Livestock salt or mineral supplements will be located a minimum of 0.25 miles away from water sources, riparian areas, and aspen stands. Buffers will be based on resource concerns on a case-by-case basis. <u>Newcastle RMP:</u> Fence construction will be required to meet current BLM fence standards. Fences on BLM-administered land surface that cause documented	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
<u>Pinedale RMP:</u> Mineral supplement blocks will be placed in locations that promote proper grazing distribution and prevent inappropriate livestock use on riparian habitat; for example, by locating supplements on ridgetops and/or approximately 0.25 miles from riparian habitat. Placement of supplements near water sources, such as wells and reservoirs, will consider rangeland objectives, such as grazing distribution, wildlife habitat requirements, and reclamation success. Mineral supplement blocks will not be placed within 0.25 miles of an occupied Greater Sage-Grouse lek. Mineral supplement blocks will not be placed within 0.25 miles of known Special Status Plant Species locations. <u>Rawlins RMP:</u> New fence construction will be authorized according to BLM standards unless modified following consultation with affected parties. Existing fences will be modified according to current BLM standards and according to wildlife and livestock management needs. <u>Green River RMP/JMH CAP:</u> Where documented wildlife conflicts with fencing on public lands occur, fences will be modified, reconstructed, or, if necessary, removed. Herding control of livestock will be encouraged as an alternative to fencing. Fence construction will be in accordance with BLM design standards and located so as not to overly impede wildlife movement. Consideration will also be given to SSS and wild horse movement. <u>Green River RMP:</u> Livestock water developments and range improvements will be considered to maintain or improve resource conditions, enhance livestock distribution, or both. Compatibility with special status plant species will be required. Water developments and/or range improvements proposed in sensitive areas will be considered only if wildlife habitat and resource conditions are maintained or improved and no significant or irreversible adverse effects will occur. Salt or nutritional supplements will be prohibited within 500 feet of riparian habitat and National Historic and Scenic Trails unless analysis shows that these resources will not be adversely affected. These supplements also will be prohibited on areas inhabited by	wildlife conflicts will be removed, reconstructed, or modified, as appropriate or necessary, to eliminate or reduce the conflict. Construction of fences that interfere with movements of big game species in crucial big game winter range will not be allowed on BLM-administered land surface. <u>Pinedale RMP:</u> Mineral supplement blocks will be placed in locations that promote proper grazing distribution and prevent inappropriate livestock use on riparian habitat; for example, by locating supplements on ridgetops and/or approximately 0.25 miles from riparian habitat. Placement of supplements near water sources, such as wells and reservoirs, will consider rangeland objectives, such as grazing distribution, wildlife habitat requirements, and reclamation success. Mineral supplement blocks will not be placed within 0.25 miles of an occupied Greater Sage-Grouse lek. Mineral supplement blocks will not be placed within 0.25 miles of known Special Status Plant Species locations. <u>Rawlins RMP:</u> New fence construction will be authorized according to BLM standards unless modified following consultation with affected parties. Existing fences will be modified according to current BLM standards and according to wildlife and livestock management needs. <u>Green River RMP/JMH CAP:</u> Where documented wildlife conflicts with fencing on public lands occur, fences will be modified, reconstructed, or, if necessary, removed. Herding control of livestock will be encouraged as an alternative to fencing. Fence construction will be in accordance with BLM	(See above.)

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
special status plant species. Placement of supplements at least 500 feet away from wells, troughs, and other human-made water sources will be encouraged to better distribute livestock. <u>JMH CAP:</u> Livestock water developments and range improvements will be considered to maintain or improve resource conditions, enhance livestock distribution, or both. Compatibility with special status plant species will be required. Water developments and/or range improvements proposed in sensitive areas will be considered only if wildlife habitat and resource conditions were maintained or improved and no significant or irreversible adverse effects will occur. Salt or nutritional supplements will be prohibited within 500 feet of riparian habitat and National Historic and Scenic Trails unless analysis shows that these resources will not be adversely affected. These supplements also will be prohibited on areas inhabited by special status plant species. Placement of supplements at least 500 feet away from wells, troughs, and other human-made water sources will be encouraged to better distribute livestock.	design standards and located so as not to overly impede wildlife movement. Consideration will also be given to SSS and wild horse movement. <u>Green River RMP:</u> Livestock water developments and range improvements will be considered to maintain or improve resource conditions, enhance livestock distribution, or both. Compatibility with special status plant species will be required. Water developments and/or range improvements proposed in sensitive areas will be considered only if wildlife habitat and resource conditions are maintained or improved and no significant or irreversible adverse effects will occur. Salt or nutritional supplements will be prohibited within 500 feet of riparian habitat and National Historic and Scenic Trails unless analysis shows that these resources will not be adversely affected. These supplements also will be prohibited on areas inhabited by special status plant species. Placement of supplements at least 500 feet away from wells, troughs, and other human-made water sources will be encouraged to better distribute livestock. <u>JMH CAP:</u> Livestock water developments and range improvements will be considered to maintain or improve resource conditions, enhance livestock distribution, or both. Compatibility with special status plant species will be required. Water developments and/or range improvements proposed in sensitive areas will be considered only if wildlife habitat and resource conditions were maintained or improved and no significant or irreversible adverse effects will occur.	(See above.)

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
(See above.)	Salt or nutritional supplements will be prohibited within 500 feet of riparian habitat and National Historic and Scenic Trails unless analysis shows that these resources will not be adversely affected. These supplements also will be prohibited on areas inhabited by special status plant species. Placement of supplements at least 500 feet away from wells, troughs, and other human-made water sources will be encouraged to better distribute livestock.	(See above.)
MD LG 9: Within PHMA, specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: Livestock trailing that is authorized will include a trailing plan to utilize non-habitat to the extent possible, include specific routes and timeframes for trailing, utilize existing trails, and avoid stopovers on occupied leks, as appropriate. The following RMP decisions remain in effect with the modification described above: <u>Casper RMP:</u> The revocation of withdrawals for those trails that are no longer active will be reviewed and recommended and these lands will be incorporated into adjacent allotments (46,050 acres). Grazing leases will be offered to the respective grazing lessees. All remaining SDW lands for trail use (55,680 acres) will be retained. <u>Kemmerer RMP:</u> Current livestock trails will be retained. Livestock trailing use will occur within 0.5 miles of the mapped centerline. <u>Pinedale RMP:</u> Adequate stock trails will be maintained to support livestock trailing needs.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD LG 10: Within PHMA, specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: Grazing between riparian habitats and upland habitats will be balanced to promote the production and availability of beneficial forbs to GRSB for use during nesting and brood-rearing. Grazing in meadows, mesic habitats, and riparian pastures also will be balanced to promote the production and availability of beneficial grasses and forbs for use during late brood-rearing within PHMA, while maintaining upland conditions and functions. Outside of PHMA and/or for values other than Greater Sage-Grouse, the following RMP decisions remain in effect with the modification described above: <u>Casper RMP:</u> Lotic and lentic wetland/riparian areas will be managed toward Proper Functioning Condition (PFC). The BLM will manage toward PFC and identified Desired Plant Community on 350 miles of lotic and adjacent riparian habitat and 10,000 acres of lentic habitat to meet fish, wildlife, and SSS habitat requirements. <u>Kemmerer RMP:</u> Livestock conversions will be allowed in allotments with riparian concerns only when a plan is approved to address riparian issues. Management actions and range improvements proposed to address riparian issues will have to be implemented prior to authorizing the conversion. Livestock conversions may be approved only after completion of a suitability study for the conversion. The conversion may be authorized if it is determined that riparian habitats will be maintained or improved by the conversion. <u>Pinedale RMP:</u> Meet the Wyoming Standards for Rangeland Health and maintain or enhance wetland and riparian vegetation to achieve PFC. Grazing systems will be designed to maintain or improve watershed and range condition; for example, through changing seasons of use, implementing rotational or other grazing management systems, or developing infrastructure for livestock management. In allotments with riparian habitat, grazing management actions will be designed to maintain or achieve proper functioning condition.	Within PHMA, specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: In PHMA, for riparian habitats and/or wet meadow communities utilized by Greater Sage-Grouse, livestock grazing would be managed to promote the production and availability of beneficial forbs for use during brood-rearing, while maintaining upland conditions and functions. Outside of PHMA and/or for values other than Greater Sage-Grouse, the following RMP decisions remain in effect with the modification described above: <u>Casper RMP:</u> Lotic and lentic wetland/riparian areas will be managed toward Proper Functioning Condition (PFC). The BLM will manage toward PFC and identified Desired Plant Community on 350 miles of lotic and adjacent riparian habitat and 10,000 acres of lentic habitat to meet fish, wildlife, and SSS habitat requirements. <u>Kemmerer RMP:</u> Livestock conversions will be allowed in allotments with riparian concerns only when a plan is approved to address riparian issues. Management actions and range improvements proposed to address riparian issues will have to be implemented prior to authorizing the conversion. Livestock conversions may be approved only after completion of a suitability study for the conversion. The conversion may be authorized if it is determined that riparian habitats will be maintained or improved by the conversion. <u>Pinedale RMP:</u> Meet the Wyoming Standards for Rangeland Health and maintain or	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
<u>Green River RMP:</u> Range improvements will be directed at resolving or reducing resource concerns, improvement of wetland/riparian areas, and overall improvement of vegetation/ground cover. New range improvements may be implemented in “I” and “M” category allotments. Maintenance of range improvements will be required in accordance with the BLM Rangeland Improvement Policy. <u>JMH CAP:</u> Implementation of grazing management systems will assist in improving or maintaining the desired range condition. Approved AMPs, or other activity plans intended to serve as the functional equivalent to an AMP, for each of the designated grazing allotments will provide the necessary guidance for achieving grazing management objectives. Appropriate actions for improving degraded rangeland and riparian habitat (i.e., meeting Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands (BLM 1997a)) include, but will not be limited to, reduction of permitted animal unit months, modified turnout dates, livestock water developments, range improvements, modified grazing periods, growing season rest, riparian pastures, exclosures, implementation of forage utilization levels, and livestock conversions. These improvements will be considered individually using the method outlined in Appendix 2 of the JMH CAP ROD to ensure conformance with management objectives for the planning area and other resource values.	enhance wetland and riparian vegetation to achieve PFC. Grazing systems will be designed to maintain or improve watershed and range condition; for example, through changing seasons of use, implementing rotational or other grazing management systems, or developing infrastructure for livestock management. In allotments with riparian habitat, grazing management actions will be designed to maintain or achieve proper functioning condition. <u>Green River RMP:</u> Range improvements will be directed at resolving or reducing resource concerns, improvement of wetland/riparian areas, and overall improvement of vegetation/ground cover. New range improvements may be implemented in “I” and “M” category allotments. Maintenance of range improvements will be required in accordance with the BLM Rangeland Improvement Policy. <u>JMH CAP:</u> Implementation of grazing management systems will assist in improving or maintaining the desired range condition. Approved AMPs, or other activity plans intended to serve as the functional equivalent to an AMP, for each of the designated grazing allotments will provide the necessary guidance for achieving grazing management objectives. Appropriate actions for improving degraded rangeland and riparian habitat (i.e., meeting Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands (BLM 1997a)) include, but will not be limited to, reduction of permitted animal unit months, modified turnout dates, livestock water developments, range improvements, modified grazing periods, growing season rest,	(See above.)

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
(See above.)	riparian pastures, exclosures, implementation of forage utilization levels, and livestock conversions. These improvements will be considered individually using the method outlined in Appendix 2 of the JMH CAP ROD to ensure conformance with management objectives for the planning area and other resource values.	(See above.)
MD LG 11: Within PHMA, specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: Range improvement projects will be planned and authorized in a way that contributes to rangeland health and maintains and/or improves Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat. Outside of PHMA and/or for values other than Greater Sage-Grouse, the following RMP decisions remain in effect with the modification described above: <u>Green River RMP:</u> Water sources may be developed in crucial wildlife winter ranges only when consistent with wildlife habitat needs. Such sources will be designed to benefit livestock, wild horses, and wildlife. Alternative water supplies or facilities for livestock may be provided to relieve livestock grazing pressure along stream bottoms and improve livestock distribution. <u>JMH CAP:</u> Livestock water developments and range improvements will be considered to maintain or improve resource conditions, enhance livestock distribution, or both. Compatibility with special status plant species will be required. Water developments and/or range improvements proposed in sensitive areas will be considered only if wildlife habitat and resource conditions are maintained or improved and no significant or irreversible adverse effects will occur.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LG 12: Existing water developments associated with springs and seeps will be evaluated and associated pipelines/structures to those developments having a negative effect on PHMA will be modified.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD WHB 1: Within PHMA, specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: Manage herd management areas (HMAs) in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat within established appropriate management level range to achieve and maintain Greater Sage-Grouse habitat (see Tables 2-2 and 2-3). Outside of PHMA and/or for values other than Greater Sage-Grouse, the following RMP decisions remain in effect with the modification described above: <u>Green River RMP/JMH CAP:</u> Specific habitat objectives for herd management areas will be developed. Consideration will be given to desired plant communities, wildlife, watershed, livestock grazing, and other resource needs.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD WHB 2: PHMA (core only) management objectives will be considered when evaluating appropriate management levels.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD WHB 3: PHMA (core only) management objectives will be considered when conducting land health assessments in BLM HMAs.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD WHB 4: When conducting NEPA analysis for wild horse management activities, water developments or other rangeland improvements for wild horses in PHMA, the direct and indirect effects on Greater Sage-Grouse populations and habitat will be addressed. Water developments or rangeland improvements will be implemented using the criteria identified for domestic livestock identified above in PHMA.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD WHB 5: Coordinate with other resources (Range, Wildlife, and Riparian) to conduct land health assessments within all BLM HMAs.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD MR 1: Fluid Minerals (Unleased Estate) Within PHMA, specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: The BLM will allow oil and gas leasing consistent and subject to the leasing stipulations analyzed in the timing, distance, disturbance, and density restrictions sections (Map 2-2) (see Appendix B – Fluid Mineral Stipulations). Ensure that leasing activities in PHMA comply with Greater Sage-Grouse resource management plan decisions and remain in compliance with laws, regulations and policy. Fluid mineral leasing will be allowed in PHMA (core only), except in areas that are closed to leasing due to the need to protect other sensitive resources.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD MR 2: Fluid Minerals (Unleased Estate) Within PHMA, specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: Geophysical exploration projects that are designed to minimize habitat fragmentation within PHMA will be allowed, except where prohibited or restricted by existing RMP decisions, and in conformance with timing and distances Management Decisions (see Decisions MD SSS 5 through MD SSS 10). Outside of PHMA and/or for values other than Greater Sage-Grouse, the following RMP decisions remain in effect with the modification described above: <u>Casper RMP:</u> The blocks of public land identified as mapped in the Casper Field Office GIS database will be managed to retain intact blocks of native vegetation (192,550 acres, of which 131,880 acres are BLM-administered surface). In these areas, the following restrictions apply: 1. These blocks are (1) unavailable for oil and gas leasing, and (2) a geophysical operation on public surface for the life of the plan. Activities for existing oil and gas leases are managed intensively (see Appendix U of the Casper RMP). Existing leases will be allowed to expire and not be renewed. 2. Within these blocks, a withdrawal from the operation of the public land laws, including the mining laws will be pursued. 3. These blocks are closed to mineral material disposal. Existing permits will be	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
allowed to expire without renewal or expansion. 4. These blocks are not open to wind/renewable energy development. 5. These blocks remain open to livestock grazing. 6. All allowed surface-disturbing activities within the designated blocks are subject to a Controlled Surface Use restriction, minimizing surface disturbance to meet management objectives. Decision 4024 The North Platte River Special Recreation Management Area will continue to be open to oil and gas leasing and geophysical operations. Decision 7039 The area is unavailable for oil and gas leasing and geophysical exploration is not allowed. Decision 7047 The MA is unavailable for new oil and gas leasing. No geophysical operations will be allowed on public surface. Activities on existing leases will be managed intensively to meet the objectives of the MA (see Appendix U of the Casper RMP – Intensive Management). To minimize surface-disturbing activities, oil and gas exploration and development will use directional drilling techniques and well twinning whenever practicable. Decision 7059 The Red Wall/Gray Wall complex is located entirely within the South Bighorns/Red Wall Management Area and is unavailable for new oil and gas leasing. No geophysical operations will be allowed on public surface. Activities on existing leases will be intensively managed to meet the objectives of the MA (see Appendix U of the Casper RMP– Intensive Management). To minimize surface-disturbing activities, oil and gas exploration and development will use directional drilling techniques and well twinning whenever practicable. Decision 7063 Those lands currently open to oil and gas leasing will continue to be open to geophysical operations. Those lands open to oil and gas leasing, but subject to a NSO restriction, may be open to geophysical operations should site specific NEPA analysis disclose a finding of no significant impact. No geophysical operations are allowed in areas closed for oil and gas leasing. Decision 2019	(See above.)	(See above.)

2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
<u>Kemmerer RMP:</u> Allow for geophysical exploration on lands throughout the planning area subject to identified conditions of approval. <u>Newcastle RMP:</u> Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities associated with all types of minerals exploration and development and with geophysical exploration will be subject to appropriate mitigation measures determined through, but not limited to, use of MD SSS 4. <u>Pinedale RMP:</u> Vehicle-based geophysical activities will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The use of surface and/or aboveground (Poulter shot) explosive charges for geophysical exploration will be assessed case by case. Geophysical projects, including projects proposed in areas with an NSO restriction, will be analyzed and mitigation developed on a case-by-case basis. Geophysical activities that are considered casual use actions are allowed within 0.25 miles of active Greater Sage-Grouse leks provided that: • Operations are conducted on designated roads and trails. • Operations during the breeding season (March 1 through May 15) are conducted between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. • A 150-foot wide strip of undisturbed sagebrush is maintained around the perimeter of the lek for hiding and escape cover. <u>Rawlins RMP:</u> All lands open to oil and gas leasing consideration will also be open to geophysical exploration, subject to appropriate resource surveys, surface protection measures, adequate bonding, and adherence to State of Wyoming standards for geophysical operations. Vehicular use for “necessary tasks” (as defined in the glossary), such as geophysical exploration including project survey and layout, will be permitted except where specifically prohibited (e.g., some SD/MAs). <u>Green River RMP:</u> Geophysical exploration (vehicles and detonation) activities will be prohibited within 0.5 miles of the Pinnacles Geologic Feature.	(See above.)	(See above.)

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Areas of sensitive heritage resources and geologic features, such as Boars Tusk, White Mountain Petroglyphs, special status plant species, wilderness study areas (WSAs), and historic trails, will remain closed. Receiver lines may be laid using foot traffic within these areas. Exceptions to these restrictions may be granted on a case-by-case basis subject to appropriate site-specific analysis and mitigation requirements. The remainder of the planning area will be open to geophysical exploration, with application of appropriate mitigation. Rights-of-way limitations in the planning area apply to on- and off-road vehicle traffic used for geophysical activities. Exploration activities will be allowed in sensitive resource areas only if they can be performed with acceptable mitigation of impacts. <u>JMH CAP:</u> Geophysical exploration (vehicles and detonation) activities will be prohibited within 0.5 miles of the Pinnacles Geologic Feature. Areas of sensitive heritage resources and geologic features, such as Boars Tusk, White Mountain Petroglyphs, special status plant species, WSAs, and historic trails, will remain closed. Receiver lines may be laid using foot traffic within these areas. Exceptions to these restrictions may be granted on a case-by-case basis subject to appropriate site-specific analysis and mitigation requirements. The remainder of the planning area will be open to geophysical exploration, with application of appropriate mitigation. ROW limitations in the planning area apply to on- and off-road vehicle traffic used for geophysical activities. Exploration activities will be allowed in sensitive resource areas only if they can be performed with acceptable mitigation of impacts.	(See above.)	(See above.)

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD MR 3, Fluid Minerals, Leased Estate: Within PHMA, specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: In cases where federal oil and gas leases have been issued with stipulations varying from those in Appendix B for the protection of Greater Sage-Grouse or their habitats, as provided in the applicable RMP decision, as revised or amended, their inclusion as APD COAs will be considered when approving exploration and development activities through completion of the environmental record of review (43 CFR 3162.5 and 36 CFR 228.108), including appropriate documentation of compliance with NEPA. Overall consideration shall be given to minimizing the impact on Greater Sage-Grouse through a project design that avoids, minimizes, reduces, rectifies, and/or adequately compensates for direct and indirect impacts on PHMA or use and includes applicable and technical COAs. Selection and application of these measures shall be based on current science and research on the effects on important breeding, nesting, brood-rearing, and wintering areas. For proposed operations in PHMA, the Surface Use Plan of Operations (see 43CFR 3162.3-1(f)) shall address, at a minimum, the anticipated noise, density and amount of disturbance, mechanical movement (e.g., pump jacks), permanent and temporary facilities, traffic, phases of development over time, off-site mitigation, and expected periods of use associated with the proposed project. Seasonal habitats or project features related to potential Greater Sage-Grouse impacts that are not addressed in the Surface Use Plan of Operations based on site- specific or project-specific considerations shall be noted in the project file, along with a rationale for not including them. In this process the BLM will evaluate, among other things: Whether the conservation measure is “reasonable” (43 CFR 3101.1-2) and consistent with valid existing rights Whether the action is in conformance with the approved LUP; and the effectiveness of the proposed mitigation measures (See MD SSS 4).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
The BLM will work with project proponents in these situations to promote measurable Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives such as, but not limited to, consolidation of project related infrastructure to reduce habitat fragmentation and loss and to promote effective conservation of seasonal habitats and PHMA (connectivity only) that support population management objectives set by the state. The BLM will continue to work with project proponents and the WGFD to site their projects in locations that meet the purpose and need for their project, but have been determined to contain the least sensitive habitats (based on vegetation, topography, or other habitat features) and resources whether inside or outside of PHMA (utilizing DDCT analysis process). Valid existing rights will be recognized and respected. For values other than Greater Sage-Grouse, the following RMP decisions remain in effect with the modification described above: <u>Kemmerer RMP:</u> Choose and implement appropriate mitigation in a timely manner to minimize decreases in habitat function. Utilize appropriate voluntary off-site compensatory mitigation to reduce impacts. This will be necessary if (1) all on-site mitigation has been accomplished and adverse effects have not been mitigated; or (2) if on-site mitigation is not feasible. <u>Pinedale RMP:</u> Off-site mitigation proposed by oil and gas or other operators can be considered and analyzed in future environmental documents as mitigation for proposed activities within the planning area. Proposed off-site mitigation will be described and analyzed for effectiveness in detail on a project-specific basis. Off-site mitigation will conform to requirements in the Pinedale RMP regarding the order of use of mitigation methods, stipulations applied to off-site mitigation measures, and priority order for mitigating resource impacts on-site or off-site. <u>Green River RMP:</u> Development actions will be analyzed on a case-by-case basis to identify mitigation needs to meet RMP objectives, provide for resource protection, and provide for logical development. Limitations on the amount,	(See above.)	(See above.)

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
sequence, timing, or level of development may occur. This may result in transportation planning and in limitations in the number of roads and drill pads, or deferring development in some areas until other areas have been restored to previous uses. <u>JMH CAP:</u> COAs attached to an APD will be based on site-specific NEPA or other analysis and will establish specific, necessary mitigation measures not covered by stipulations for resource and environmental protection. Some areas will need more intensive mitigation measures to protect sensitive resources and provide for public health and safety. These intensive mitigation measures or COAs will mostly apply to areas with overlapping sensitive resources (e.g., Areas 2 and 3). Examples of intensive mitigation that can apply to all activities based on site-specific analysis include off-site placement of facilities, remote control monitoring, restricted or prohibited surface use including road construction, multiple wells from a single pad, central tank batteries/facilities, and pipelines and power lines concentrated in specific areas. In addition, refer to Section 3.12.3 for additional mitigation measures that may apply as part of the transportation plan.	(See above.)	(See above.)
MD MR 4: Within PHMA, field offices will work with project proponents (including those within BLM) to site their projects in locations that minimize impacts on sensitive resources.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD MR 5: Master Development Plans will be considered and encouraged for projects involving multiple proposed disturbances within PHMA.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD MR 6: Within PHMA, unitization will be encouraged as a means of minimizing adverse impacts on Greater Sage-Grouse to reduce fragmentation and surface-disturbing and disruptive activities.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD MR 7: The BLM shall closely examine the applicability of categorical exclusions in PHMA and GHMA. If extraordinary circumstances review is applicable, the BLM shall determine whether those circumstances exist. For proposed actions in PHMA, determine whether a categorical exclusion is applicable and if so, closely examine the extraordinary circumstances, if applicable, to determine whether one or more exists that will require preparation of a NEPA analysis. If a categorical exclusion applies, and no extraordinary circumstances exist, determine whether preparing a NEPA analysis will help inform decision making.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD MR 8: Federal Regulations, 43 CFR 3104.1 requires that a bond be furnished before any drilling or surface disturbance activities begin. The lessee, sublessee or the operator must furnish a surety or personal bond in the amount of at least \$10,000 to ensure compliance with all the lease terms, including protection of the environment. With the consent of the surety and principal, the operator may use the bond of another party, such as the lessee. Each time there is a new operator, that operator must notify the BLM that he/she is the responsible operator, giving the particulars of the bond under which he/she will operate. The BLM can require an increase in a bond amount any time conditions warrant such an increase. A reclamation bond will be required on all projects that is commensurate with the scope, scale, size of the project within PHMA. Partial bonding may be appropriate depending on these factors.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD MR 9: Within PHMA, specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: Produced water from coalbed natural gas wells will be treated and disposed of in collaboration and consistent with the requirements of the state, and RDFs specified in Management Action 10 (Appendix C). Outside of PHMA and/or for values other than Greater Sage-Grouse, the following RMP decisions remain in effect with the modification described above: <u>Pinedale RMP:</u> Produced water from coalbed natural gas wells will be treated and disposed of in collaboration and consistent with the requirements of the state.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD MR 10: Specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, within PHMA (core only), all RMPs are amended as follows: Where the federal government owns the mineral estate, and the surface is in nonfederal ownership, apply the same stipulations, COAs, and/or conservation measures and RDFs applied if the mineral estate is developed on BLM-administered lands in that management area, to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities, and in coordination with the landowner. Within PHMA (non-core only) and outside of PHMA and/or for values other than Greater Sage-Grouse, the following RMP decisions remain in effect with the modification described above: <u>Pinedale RMP:</u> BLM-permitted actions on split estate lands are subject to the same stipulations as leased federal mineral estate on federal surface lands, provided the stipulations do not adversely affect the surface owner's land use or actions. Exceptions to surface development restrictions may be granted if requested or agreed to by the surface owner.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD MR 11: Within PHMA where the federal government owns the surface and the mineral estate is in nonfederal ownership, apply appropriate surface use COAs, stipulations, and mineral RDFs through ROW grants or other surface management instruments, to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities, in coordination with the mineral estate owner/lessee.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD MR 12: Locatable Minerals Within PHMA, specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: 252,160 acres within SFAs (see MD SSS 14 for identification of SFAs) will be recommended for withdrawal from the General Mining Act of 1872, subject to valid existing rights. A total of approximately 21,251,690 acres are open to locatable mineral location and entry (Map 2-3). Operators may be requested to submit modifications to the accepted notice or approved plan of operations so that the operations minimally impact PHMA. The AO may convey to the operator suggested conservation measures, based on the notice or plan level operations and the geographic area of those operations (also called the project area which is defined in 43 CFR 3809.5 and 36 CFR 228.3). These suggested conservation measures include measures that support the overall goals and objectives of the core population area strategy, though measures listed for protection of Greater Sage-Grouse breeding, nesting, brood- rearing, and wintering may not be reasonable or applicable to the BLM's determination of whether the proposed operations will cause unnecessary or undue degradation under 43 CFR 3809.5 and 36 CFR 228.3. The request containing the suggested conservation measures must make clear that the operator's compliance is not mandatory. Notices or Plans of Operation, or modifications thereto, submitted following the issuance of this guidance: As part of the 15-day completeness review of notices [or modifications thereto] and 30-day completeness review of plans of operations [or modifications thereto], the proposed project area(s) where exploration, development, mining, access and reclamation will take place shall be reviewed for overlap of PHMA in the corporate GIS database. If there is overlap, the BLM AO may notify the operator of ways that they may minimize impacts on PHMA and request the operator to amend its notice or plan to include such measures. The request to amend the submitted notice or plan of operations must make clear that the operator's compliance is	Locatable Minerals Within PHMA, specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: A total of approximately 21,251,690 acres are open to locatable mineral location and entry (Map 2-3). Operators may be requested to submit modifications to the accepted notice or approved plan of operations so that the operations minimally impact PHMA. The AO may convey to the operator suggested conservation measures, based on the notice or plan level operations and the geographic area of those operations (also called the project area which is defined in 43 CFR 3809.5 and 36 CFR 228.3). These suggested conservation measures include measures that support the overall goals and objectives of the core population area strategy, though measures listed for protection of Greater Sage-Grouse breeding, nesting, brood- rearing, and wintering may not be reasonable or applicable to the BLM's determination of whether the proposed operations will cause unnecessary or undue degradation under 43 CFR 3809.5 and 36 CFR 228.3. The request containing the suggested conservation measures must make clear that the operator's compliance is not mandatory. Notices or Plans of Operation, or modifications thereto, submitted following the issuance of this guidance: As part of the 15-day completeness review of notices [or modifications thereto] and 30-day completeness review of plans of operations [or modifications thereto], the proposed project area(s) where exploration, development, mining, access and reclamation will take	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
not mandatory and that including such measures is not a requirement for completeness of either the notice or a plan of operations, nor is it a condition of acceptance of the notice or approval of the plan of operations. For values other than Greater Sage-Grouse, the following RMP decisions remain in effect: 1,785,230 acres are withdrawn from mineral entry for the protection of sensitive resources.	place shall be reviewed for overlap of PHMA in the corporate GIS database. If there is overlap, the BLM AO may notify the operator of ways that they may minimize impacts on PHMA and request the operator to amend its notice or plan to include such measures. The request to amend the submitted notice or plan of operations must make clear that the operator's compliance is not mandatory and that including such measures is not a requirement for completeness of either the notice or a plan of operations, nor is it a condition of acceptance of the notice or approval of the plan of operations. (see also MD SSS 4 through MD SSS 10 and MD SSS 12) For values other than Greater Sage-Grouse, the following RMP decisions remain in effect: 1,785,230 acres are withdrawn from mineral entry for the protection of sensitive resources.	(See above.)
MD MR 13: Salable Minerals PHMA will be open to mineral material exploration, sales, and free use permits, except in areas that are unavailable due to the need to protect other resource values. All salable mineral activities within PHMA will be considered, provided they can be completed in compliance within surface occupancy, seasonal restrictions, and disturbance and density stipulations (Map 2-4 and MD SSS 2, 3,5 through 10) analyzed through the DDCT process.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD MR 14: Salable Minerals Within PHMA closure and restoration of salable mineral pits no longer in use will be considered to meet Greater Sage-Grouse habitat conservation objectives. Emphasis will be given to reclamation/restoration of PHMA as a viable long term goal to improve Greater Sage-Grouse habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD MR 15: Nonenergy Leasable Minerals Within PHMA, specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: All nonenergy leasable mineral activities will be considered in PHMA, provided that the activities can be completed in compliance with all occupancy, timing, density and disturbance restrictions (Map 2-5). Exploration licenses and prospecting permits will be considered with appropriate mitigating measures. Outside of PHMA and/or for values other than Greater Sage-Grouse, the following RMP decisions remain in effect with the modification described above: Portions of PHMA will be unavailable for leasing in accordance with existing RMP decisions for resource values other than Greater Sage-Grouse. <u>Kemmerer RMP:</u> Sodium: All public lands (outside of the Raymond Mountain WSA and exceptions identified below) within the planning area are available for sodium leasing consideration. Exploration for sodium will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Limited surface occupancy criteria contained in the Sodium Mineral Development Environmental Assessment will be applied on a case-by-case basis. No new sodium leases or exploration licenses may be issued on lands within the Raymond Mountain WSA. No new sodium exploration and leasing will be considered for Rock Creek/Tunp and Bear River Divide management areas. Phosphate: All public lands (outside of the Raymond Mountain WSA and exceptions identified below) within the planning area are available for phosphate leasing consideration. Exploration for phosphate will be considered on a case-by-case basis. No new phosphate exploration and leasing will be considered for Rock Creek/Tunp and Bear River Divide management areas. <u>Pinedale RMP:</u> Should interest in other leasable minerals materialize in the future, leasing will be considered on a case-by- case basis, and the RMP will be amended as appropriate and necessary. The same surface disturbance restrictions will be used in analyzing leasing proposals and determining the issuance of any	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
leases (for example, geothermal steam, coal, sodium, oil shale, and phosphate). <u>Green River RMP/JMH CAP:</u> The known sodium leasing area is open to exploration and consideration for leasing and developments, but is closed to prospecting permits. The remainder of the planning area is open to sodium prospecting except for areas that are closed to mineral leasing, surface mining, or mechanical prospecting type activities (areas closed to drilling, off road vehicle use, and explosive charges). Sodium (trona) leasing will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and is subject to the same conditional requirements as oil and gas and coal, and the general management direction applied in this RMP.	(See above.)	(See above.)
MD MR 16: Solid Leasable Minerals Within PHMA, specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: At the time an application for a new coal lease or lease modification is submitted to the BLM, the BLM will determine whether the lease application area is "unsuitable" for all or certain coal mining methods pursuant to 43 CFR 3461.5. PHMA is essential habitat for maintaining Greater Sage-Grouse for purposes of the suitability criteria set forth at 43 CFR 3461.5(o)(1). The BLM will also consider that USFWS has found "the core area strategy...if implemented by all landowners via regulatory mechanisms, would provide adequate protection for Greater Sage-Grouse and their habitats in the state" when considering leasing coal in PHMA under the criteria set for at 43 CFR 3461.5(o)(1). Outside of PHMA and/or for values other than Greater Sage-Grouse, the following RMP decisions remain in effect with the modification described above: <u>Casper RMP:</u> If coal development potential is shown to exist, all BLM-administered lands outside the Coal Development Potential Area (CDPA) will be considered for coal leasing, unless specifically closed to mineral leasing. The coal-screening process will be completed on all newly identified lands having coal development potential. All BLM-administered lands within the CDPA identified in the 2001 Buffalo RMP	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
maintenance action are acceptable for further consideration for coal leasing. The only exceptions are those lands determined unacceptable within the area or those lands that fall within PHMA. The coal unsuitability criteria are re- evaluated whenever new coal lease applications are received. <u>Kemmerer RMP:</u> Process new coal lease applications by using the coal screening process. The coal screening process results will determine which lands may be available for further consideration for coal leasing and development. Appropriate NEPA analysis will be required prior to leasing. Federal land within the proposed Haystack project area outside of the PHMA is determined acceptable for further consideration for coal leasing and development. No coal LBAs will be considered for Rock Creek/Tunp and Bear River Divide management areas. <u>Pinedale RMP:</u> Decisions on lands acceptable for leasing consideration for coal development will be made after an application is received and the coal screening process is conducted. <u>Rawlins RMP:</u> Federal coal lease applications will be accepted only on those federal coal lands with development potential identified as suitable for further leasing consideration after application of the coal unsuitability criteria (the above-mentioned approximately 51,250 acres and 2,318.7 million tons of surface minable federal coal). <u>Green River RMP/JMH CAP:</u> Federal coal lands within the Coal Occurrence and Development Potential area (about 422,000 acres) are open to further consideration for coal leasing and development (i.e., new competitive leasing, emergency leasing, lease modifications, and exchange proposals, under the Federal Coal Management Program) with appropriate and necessary conditions and requirements for protection of other land and resource values and uses.	(See above.)	(See above.)

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD MR 17: Solid Leasable Minerals Within PHMA, specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: Upon receipt of a coal lease application proposing underground mining methods that include surface operations and impacts within PHMA, Criterion 15 will be applied and the area will be identified as suitable for further coal leasing consideration after consultation with the state and, where applicable, surface management agency to determine that all or certain stipulated methods of coal mining will not have a significant long-term impact on Greater Sage-Grouse. Stipulated methods may include, but not limited to, underground mining methods with no placement of surface facilities except for purposes of health and human safety. Unsuitability is not applied to underground operations without surface impacts (43 CFR 3461.1) This will be consistent with IM WY-2012-019 says that the BLM will assess potential impacts on Greater Sage-Grouse through the NEPA process, and that the state regulatory agency will apply this mitigation, as well as protective measures consistent with the state policy for solid leasable mining action at the permitting stage. Outside of PHMA and/or for values other than Greater Sage-Grouse, the following RMP decisions remain in effect with the modification described above: <u>Casper RMP:</u> If coal development potential is shown to exist, all BLM-administered lands outside the CDPA will be considered for coal leasing, unless specifically closed to mineral leasing. The coal-screening process will be completed on all newly identified lands having coal development potential. All BLM-administered lands within the CDPA identified in the 2001 Buffalo RMP maintenance action are acceptable for further consideration for coal leasing. The only exceptions are those lands determined unacceptable within the area. The coal unsuitability criteria are re-evaluated whenever new coal lease applications are received. <u>Kemmerer RMP:</u> Process new coal lease applications by using the coal screening process. The coal	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
screening process results will determine which lands may be available for further consideration for coal leasing and development. Appropriate NEPA analysis will be required prior to leasing. Federal land within the proposed Haystack project area is determined acceptable for further consideration for coal leasing and development. No coal LBAs will be considered for Rock Creek/Tunp and Bear River Divide management areas. <u>Pinedale RMP:</u> Decisions on lands acceptable for leasing consideration for coal development will be made after an application is received and the coal screening process is conducted. <u>Rawlins RMP:</u> Federal coal lease applications will be accepted only on those federal coal lands with development potential identified as suitable for further leasing consideration after application of the coal unsuitability criteria (the above-mentioned approximately 51,250 acres and 2,318.7 million tons of surface minable federal coal). <u>Green River RMP/JMH CAP:</u> Federal coal lands within the Coal Occurrence and Development Potential area (about 422,000 acres) are open to further consideration for coal leasing and development (i.e., new competitive leasing, emergency leasing, lease modifications, and exchange proposals, under the Federal Coal Management Program) with appropriate and necessary conditions and requirements for protection of other land and resource values and uses.	(See above.)	(See above.)
MD MR 18: Coal exploration activities will be allowed in PHMA if they can be completed in compliance to surface occupancy and disturbance and density stipulations analyzed through the DDCT process.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD MR 19: Exceptions to lease stipulations, COA, and terms and conditions: Exceptions waivers, and modifications to lease stipulations, COAs, and terms and conditions, for Greater Sage-Grouse will continue to be considered on a case-by-case basis consistent with approved LUPs and other BLM policy and regulations as they relate to exceptions within PHMA and GHMA.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD RE 1: Within PHMA, all RMPs are amended as follows: Wind energy development would be avoided in PHMA (Map 2-6), and not allowed unless it can be sufficiently demonstrated that the development activity would not result in declines of PHMA populations. Sufficient demonstration of “no declines” should be coordinated with the WGFD and USFWS. For values other than Greater Sage-Grouse, the following RMP decisions remain in effect: Areas that are currently unavailable due to the need to protect sensitive resources would remain unavailable to wind energy development.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD RE 2: Within PHMA, specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: The use of guy wires for meteorological towers (MET) tower supports would be avoided within PHMA. All existing and any new unavoidable guy wires should be marked with recommended bird deterrent devices. The siting of new temporary MET towers within PHMA would be avoided within 2 miles of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks, unless they are out of the direct line of sight of the occupied lek. Outside of PHMA, the following RMP decisions remain in effect: <u>Kemmerer RMP:</u> New MET towers would be avoided within 1 mile of occupied sagebrush obligate habitats, unless anti-perch devices are installed. MET towers relying on guy wires for support would be prohibited in these habitats. Exceptions could be made if NEPA analysis shows little or no impact on sagebrush obligate species. <u>Rawlins RMP:</u> MET towers would be authorized on a case-by-case basis from 0.25 miles to 1 mile of an occupied Greater Sage-Grouse and sharp-tailed grouse lek.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD LR 1: <i>Land Use Authorizations</i> Specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: PHMA will be managed as ROW avoidance areas for new ROW or Special Use Authorization (SUA) permits (Map 2-7). Within PHMA where new ROWs/SUAs are necessary, new ROWs/SUAs will be located within designated RMP corridors or adjacent to existing ROWs/SUAs where technically feasible. Subject to valid existing rights including nonfederal land inholdings, required new ROWs/SUAs will be located adjacent to existing ROWs/SUAs or where it best minimizes Greater Sage-Grouse impacts. Consider the likelihood of development of not-yet-constructed surface-disturbing activities, as defined in Table 2 of the Monitoring Framework (Appendix D under valid existing rights. For values other than Greater Sage-Grouse, the following RMP decisions remain in effect: Portions of PHMA will be managed as ROW exclusion areas in accordance with existing RMP decisions for resource values other than Greater Sage-Grouse.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LR 2: Specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: Within GHMA where new ROWs/SUAs are necessary, new ROWs/SUAs will be collocated within existing ROWs/SUAs where technically feasible. Appropriate Greater Sage-Grouse seasonal timing constraints will be applied. For values other than Greater Sage-Grouse, the following RMP decisions remain in effect: Portions of GHMA will be managed as ROW avoidance areas in accordance with existing RMP decisions for resource values other than Greater Sage-Grouse.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD LR 3: Within PHMA, specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: <u>New Transmission Lines (greater than 115 kV):</u> New transmission lines greater than 115 kV in PHMA (core only) will be allowed only (1) within the 2-mile wide transmission line route through PHMA (core only) population areas in south-central and southwestern Wyoming (Attachment 1 from EO 2015-4); (2) when located within 0.5 miles or less of an existing 115 kV or greater transmission line constructed prior to 2008; or (3) in designated RMP corridors authorized for aboveground transmission lines. Transmission lines routed using one or more of the three criteria listed above will not be counted against the DDCT 5 percent disturbance cap. New transmission lines greater than 115 kV proposed outside of these areas will be considered where it can be demonstrated that declines in Greater Sage-Grouse populations can be avoided through project design and/or mitigation. These projects will be subject to the density and disturbance restrictions for PHMA. Construction of new transmission lines will adhere to the restrictions associated with conducting activities within PHMA. Review of transmission line proposals will incorporate the Framework for Sage-grouse Impacts Analysis for Interstate Transmission Lines and other appropriate documents consistent with the three routing criteria described above. New projects within PHMA that may require future utility lines, including distribution and transmission lines or pipelines, will include the proposed utility lines in their DDCT as part of the proposed disturbance. Lines permitted but not located in the above mentioned routes or a designated corridor will be counted toward the 5 percent disturbance calculation (line disturbance is equal to the anticipated construction footprint or construction ROW width multiplied by length and includes all access roads, staging areas, and other surface disturbance associated with construction outside of the construction ROW).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
<u>New Electric Distribution Lines (less than 115 kV):</u> New electric distribution lines will be buried where feasible and economically feasible. If not economically feasible, distribution lines may be authorized when effectively designed/mitigated to protect Greater Sage-Grouse and the AO determines that overhead installation is the action alternative with the fewest adverse impacts while still meeting the project need. Agricultural and residential lines will be considered to be adequately mitigated for Greater Sage-Grouse if constructed at least 0.6 miles from the lek perimeter with appropriate timing constraints and constructed to the latest APLIC guidance. These ROW authorizations will be subject to approval by the State Director. <u>Priority Transmission Lines:</u> PHMA are designated as avoidance areas for high voltage transmission line and pipeline ROWs, except for the transmission projects specifically identified below. All authorizations in these areas, other than the following identified projects, must comply with the conservation measures outlined in this proposed plan, including the RDF and avoidance criteria presented Appendix C of this document. The BLM is currently processing an application for Gateway South, Gateway West, and TransWest Express and the NEPA review for these projects is well underway. The BLM is analyzing Greater Sage-Grouse mitigation measures through the project's NEPA review process. <u>Pipelines:</u> New pipelines through PHMA will be allowed: (1) within an RMP corridor currently authorized for that use or designated through future RMP amendments; or (2) constructed in or adjacent to existing utilities (buried and aboveground) or roads. Pipelines constructed in RMP corridors or adjacent to existing utilities or roads will require completion of a DDCT analysis for baseline data collection but the project is not required to meet the threshold of 5 percent. However, within 6 months of the completion of construction, the project proponent will provide the AO with as-built drawings so that total disturbance within core area can be calculated annually.	(See above.)	(See above.)

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
The following RMP decisions remain in effect with the modification described above: <u>Casper RMP:</u> No new corridor designations will be made in Bates Hole. When placement of a major ROW facility within a designated corridor is not possible, and for smaller ROW and other linear facilities, placement will be adjacent to existing facilities or disturbances. Cross-country placement of ROW and other linear facilities will be allowed only when placement in a designated corridor or adjacent to an existing facility is not practical or feasible. The extent of all surface disturbances will be minimized. No new corridors will be established in the Sand Hills Management Area; ROWs will be allowed when management objectives for the area can still be achieved. All currently designated corridors will be maintained. All special restrictions that apply to types of use/facilities on the corridors will be removed, except as noted for the Oregon Trail Road ROW Corridor, Segment A. The corridors include 351,020 acres, of which 94,580 acres are federal surface. The widths/size of designated corridors will not change. Special restrictions applying to types of use/facilities on the corridors will be removed on a case-by-case basis. Existing corridors include: 1. Oregon Trail Road Corridor, Segment A 2. Oregon Trail Road Corridor, Segment B 3. Oregon Trail Road Corridor, Segment C 4. Poison Spider/Gas Hills Road Corridor 5. Highway 20-26 Corridor 6. Wyoming Highway 259/U.S. 87 Corridor 7. Wyoming Highway 387 Corridor 8. Lost Cabin-Arminto Road Corridor 9. RMP Change No. 2012-03, including the West-Wide Energy Corridor 10. Cabin Creek Corridor 11. Existing Oregon Trail Road ROW Corridor, Segment A. Oregon Trail Road ROW Corridor, Segment A allows additional ROW facilities provided they are subsurface, surface, or low profile developments. ROW facilities that introduce visual intrusions on the skyline along the corridor will not be allowed. Special restrictions applying to types of use/facilities on the corridors will be removed on a case-	(See above.)	(See above.)

2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
by-case basis, and a new corridor, to be called the Cabin Creek Corridor, will be designated. Future Corridor Adjustments and New Corridor Designations: Future corridor adjustments and new corridor designations will be made only when facility placement within an existing designated corridor is incompatible, unfeasible, or impractical and when the environmental consequences can be adequately mitigated. Problems of technical compatibility between facilities and spacing of facilities in corridors will be solved on a case-by-case basis. Special restrictions applying to types of use/facilities on the corridors will be removed on a case-by-case basis. South Bighorns/Red Wall Management Area: No corridors will be designated; however, ROWs will be allowed on a case-by-case basis when management objectives for the area can still be achieved. <u>Kemmerer RMP:</u> Utility corridors will be designated, based on use (i.e., power lines, pipelines, and fiber optic lines). Preferred utility corridors will be 2 miles wide (width will be determined based on resource values) and designated as follows, but variances will be allowed based on application where conflicts with other resources were minimal or can be mitigated through resource-specific stipulations: High-voltage power line corridors will be established north of and parallel to I-80, and along Wyoming State Highway 89 from the junction of I-80 and the Wyoming state line. Fiber optic and low-voltage power line corridors will be located along currently established road systems (e.g., interstate or state highways and paved county roads). <u>Newcastle RMP:</u> Utility/transportation systems will be located adjacent to existing utility/transportation systems whenever practical. Areas to be avoided for new facility placement and routes will be identified on a case-by-case basis, rather than attempting to establish utility corridors. <u>Pinedale RMP:</u> Utility facilities will be restricted to existing routes and designated corridors where practicable, including environmental and socioeconomic considerations. Corridor	(See above.)	(See above.)

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
routes include U.S. Highways 189 and 191 and State Highways 189, 191, 350, 351, 352, 353, and 354. New corridors may be established as oil and gas fields are developed. <u>Rawlins RMP:</u> All BLM-administered lands, except VSA and some SD/MAs (including ACEC/Special Interest Areas), will be open to consideration for placement of utility ROW systems. Each utility ROW will be located adjacent to existing facilities, when possible. Areas with important or sensitive resource values will be avoided. Existing major transportation and utility ROW routes will be designated corridors. However, major transportation routes within the planning area that are located east of the Carbon County-Albany County line will not be considered for ROW corridor designation because of the scattered public land ownership pattern in the area. All corridors will be designated for power lines (aboveground and buried), telephone lines, and fiber optic lines. Specific proposals will require site-specific environmental analysis and compliance with established permitting processes. Activities generally excluded from ROW corridors include mineral materials disposal, range and wildlife habitat improvements involving surface disturbance and facility construction, campgrounds, and public recreation facilities and other facilities that will attract public use. ROW facilities will not be placed adjacent to each other if issues with safety or incompatibility or resource conflicts were identified. The designated width, allowable uses, and excluded uses for each corridor may be modified during implementation of the Approved RMP. <u>Green River RMP:</u> Areas designated as utility windows will be preferred locations for future grants. Five windows have been identified: 2 east-west, 3 north-south. Other areas will be considered for rights-of-way on a case-by-case basis. Windows 0.5 miles in width have been identified for the placement of utilities. The northern east-west window will be for underground facilities only, and the southern east-west window will be for both above and below ground facilities. A 0.5-mile wide	(See above.)	(See above.)

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
north-south window on the west side of Flaming Gorge, a window south along Highway 430, and a north-south window along the east side of Flaming Gorge have been identified for above and below ground utilities. <u>JMH CAP:</u> The planning area, with the exception of defined exclusion and avoidance areas, will be open to considering grants of rights-of-way if area objectives can be met. Exclusion areas are closed to rights-of-way. Avoidance and special management areas not identified as exclusion areas will be open to consideration only after site-specific analysis demonstrates area objectives can be met (see glossary) in Greater Sage-Grouse potential nesting habitat.	(See above.)	(See above.)
MD LR 4: Within PHMA, specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: Maintenance/replacement of existing structures will be allowed subject to valid and existing rights. Upgrades will be considered, subject to mandatory RDFs (Appendix C). Existing guy wires shall be removed or appropriately marked with bird flight diverters to make them more visible to Greater Sage-Grouse in flight. Power lines (distribution and transmission) will be designed to minimize wildlife-related impacts and constructed to the latest APLIC standards. Outside of PHMA the following RMP decisions remain in effect: <u>Kemmerer RMP:</u> New utility lines will be buried or BLM-approved anti-perch devices will be installed on all new utility lines within sagebrush and/or semiarid shrub-dominated habitats, unless NEPA analysis shows little or no impact without burial or modification.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD LR 5: Within PHMA where existing authorizations, ROWs, or SUAs have had some level of development (e.g., road, fence, and well) and are expired and are no longer in use, the site will be reclaimed by removing these features and restoring the habitat. Power lines (distribution and transmission) will be designed to minimize wildlife-related impacts and constructed to the latest APLIC standards.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD LR 6: Within PHMA, specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: The use of guy wires for MET tower supports will be avoided within PHMA. All existing and any new unavoidable guy wires shall be marked with recommended bird deterrent devices. The siting of new temporary MET towers within PHMA will be avoided within 2 miles of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks, unless they are out of the direct line of sight of the occupied lek. Outside of PHMA, the following RMP decisions remain in effect: <u>Kemmerer RMP:</u> New MET towers will be avoided within 1 mile of occupied sagebrush obligate habitats, unless anti-perch devices are installed. MET towers relying on guy wires for support will be prohibited in these habitats. Exceptions can be made if NEPA analysis shows little or no impact on sagebrush obligate species. <u>Rawlins RMP:</u> MET towers will be authorized on a case-by-case basis from 0.25 miles to 1 mile of an occupied Greater Sage-Grouse and sharp-tailed grouse lek.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD LR 7: Within PHMA and GHMA, specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: Lands classified as PHMA for Greater Sage-Grouse will be retained in federal management unless: (1) the agency can demonstrate that disposal of the lands, including land exchanges, that disposal of the parcel is in the public's best interest or (2) the agency can demonstrate that the disposal of the lands, including land exchanges, will have no direct or indirect adverse impact on conservation of the Greater Sage-Grouse. Exceptions will be considered where there is mixed ownership and land exchanges will allow for additional or more contiguous federal ownership patterns within PHMA. For PHMA with minority federal ownership, an additional, effective mitigation agreement will be included for any disposal of federal land. As a final preservation measure, consideration shall be given to pursuing a permanent conservation easement. For lands in GHMA that are identified for disposal, the BLM will only dispose of such	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
lands consistent with the goals and objectives of this plan, including, but not limited to, the RMP goal to conserve, recover, and enhance Greater Sage-Grouse habitat on a landscape scale. For values other than Greater Sage-Grouse, the following RMP decisions remain in effect with the modification described above: <u>Casper RMP:</u> 224,830 acres of public lands are identified as potentially suitable for disposal. At the implementation stage, site-specific analysis with public participation will be conducted. Based on the analysis and public comments received, a determination will be made on whether disposal of the parcel is in the public's best interest. If it is not in the public's best interest, the parcel will be retained in public ownership. Restricted Disposal – dispose of 5,450 acres on a restricted basis. Allow land-use authorizations under FLPMA Section 302(b) leases and permits to meet public demand. Evaluate on a case-by-case basis as proposals are presented. Potential lease and permit areas may include, but are not limited to the following: • Areas where there are documented or existing trespass facilities that can be resolved by an authorization under this section • Areas along major highways where developments may facilitate public needs • Areas in or adjacent to residential, agricultural, commercial, or industrial developments. The BLM will pursue acquisition of lands and interest in lands in the South Bighorns/Red Wall area.	(See above.)	(See above.)

2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD LR 8: Within PHMA and GHMA, specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: Areas where acquisitions (including subsurface mineral rights) or conservation easements will benefit Greater Sage-Grouse habitat will be identified. Outside of PHMA and GHMA, and/or for values other than Greater Sage-Grouse, the following RMP decisions remain in effect with the modification described above: <u>Casper RMP:</u> The BLM will pursue acquisition of lands and interest in lands in the Bolton Creek Drainage and Bates Creek areas.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD LR 9: Greater Sage-Grouse habitat requirements will be utilized to prioritize parcels for exchange or acquisition within PHMA.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD LR 10: Within PHMA, non-mineral withdrawals will be evaluated to determine if the withdrawal action is consistent with Greater Sage-Grouse conservation.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD REC 1: Specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse or PHMA, all RMPs are amended as follows: BLM Special Recreation Permits will be allowed in PHMA, unless negative impacts on Greater Sage-Grouse cannot be adequately mitigated. Outside of PHMA and/or for values other than Greater Sage-Grouse, the following RMP decisions remain in effect with the modification described above: <u>Casper RMP:</u> The entire planning area will remain open to dispersed recreation. The camping limit on public lands is set by BLM policy and is currently limited to 14 days. Emphasis will be placed on providing interpretive and information signs and materials for public land visitors, maintaining existing facilities to a high standard consistent with the recreational setting, and limiting development of additional facilities to those areas where public recreational use of surrounding public lands requires. Work with state, local groups, and adjacent landowners will be conducted to identify and develop recreational trails, both motorized and nonmotorized, when the opportunities presents themselves. Special Recreation Permits will be allowed for commercial, noncommercial, and competitive	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
events on a case-by-case basis. Cooperation will be maintained with a variety of user groups, especially in the local area, to provide diverse recreational opportunities for enjoyment of public lands. BLM will pursue acquisition of lands and interest in lands in the Rattlesnake Range and Pine Ridge areas, as well as promote and support recreation-based tourism. <u>Kemmerer RMP:</u> Allow dispersed recreation and permit special recreational activities (e.g., outfitting and guiding permits and OHV events permitted on an annual basis after evaluation). <u>Green River RMP:</u> Special recreation permits will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Appropriate mitigation will be included in special recreation permits, commercial recreation uses, and major competitive recreation events to provide resource protection and public safety. <u>JMH CAP:</u> Special recreation use permits for managed activities that occur in the JMH CAP planning area will be reviewed and subject to recommendations made by the Rock Springs Field Office. This will allow the Rock Springs Field Office to track the amount, location, and timing of organized activity occurring within the planning area to monitor resource pressure. The permit evaluation process will consider the nature of the event, potential impacts on resources, conflicts with other events, and impacts on the quality of other visitors' experiences. Mitigation measures necessary to protect the resources will be included in any permit issued. A plan of operation will be required for all commercial recreational operators and outfitters. The plan will describe the type, extent, and location of the recreation use and the mechanisms by which the operator/outfitter will prevent impacts on environmental resources. Any requests in special recreation use permit applications to remove natural resources will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis after an environmental analysis process.	(See above.)	(See above.)

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD REC 2: Construction of recreation facilities within PHMA must conform with the avoidance and minimization measures of this plan. If it is determined that these conservation measures are inadequate for the conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse, the BLM will consider and ensure compensatory mitigation that provides a net conservation gain to the species.	Construction of recreation facilities within PHMA must conform to the avoidance and minimization measures of this plan. If it is determined that these conservation measures are inadequate for the conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse, the BLM will consider mitigation consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming's Executive Order 2015-4 (see also MD SSS 4).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD TTM 1: Specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: Within PHMA, designate the non-sand dune portions of the following OHV Open Areas as OHV Limited Area. The OHV limitation will ultimately be to "Designated Routes" as determined through a subsequent implementation/activity level Travel Management Plan. In the interim, motorized use on existing routes may occur; however, no new routes may be created without specific authorization: Rawlins Field Office: Dune Pond Cooperative Management Area. Rock Springs Field Office: Portion of the Greater Sand Dunes Recreation Area. The following RMP decisions remain in effect: The Casper Field Office Poison Spider OHV Park (290 acres) will remain as an "open" OHV area.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD TTM 2: Within PHMA and GHMA, all motorized use (of which OHVs are a subset) will be limited to designated routes. Route designations will occur in subsequent implementation/activity level Travel Management Plans. In the interim motorized use on existing routes may occur; however, no new routes may be created without specific authorization. In PHMA and GHMA, temporary closures will be considered in accordance with 43 CFR subpart 8364 (Closures and Restrictions); 43 CFR subpart 8351 (Designated National Area); 43 CFR subpart 6302 (Use of Wilderness Areas, Prohibited Acts, and Penalties); 43 CFR subpart 8341 (Conditions of Use). Temporary closure or restriction orders under these authorities are enacted at the discretion of the AO to resolve management conflicts and protect persons, property, and public lands and resources. Where an AO determines that off-highway vehicles are causing or will cause considerable adverse effects upon soil, vegetation, wildlife, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, historical resources, threatened or endangered species, wilderness suitability, other authorized uses, or other resources, the affected areas shall be immediately closed to the type(s) of vehicle causing the adverse effect until the adverse effects are eliminated and measures implemented to prevent recurrence. (43 CFR 8341.2) A closure or restriction order shall be considered only after other management strategies and alternatives have been explored. The duration of temporary closure or restriction orders shall be limited to 24 months or less; however, certain situations may require longer closures and/or iterative temporary closures. This may include closure of routes or areas.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 4, 5, and 6.
MD TTM 3: New local or collector roads (as defined in BLM Manual 9113) will be avoided within 1.9 miles of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks within PHMA. All new roads will be prohibited within 0.6 miles of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks within PHMA.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD TTM 4: Within PHMA, no upgrading of existing routes that will change route category or capacity will be allowed unless the upgrading will have minimal impact on Greater Sage-Grouse in PHMA, was necessary for motorist safety, or eliminated the need to construct a new road.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD TTM 5: In PHMA, existing roads or realignments will be used to access valid existing rights that are not yet developed. If valid existing rights cannot be accessed via existing roads, any new road will be constructed to the absolute minimum standard necessary, and the surface disturbance will be added to the total disturbance in the PHMA.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD TTM 6: Specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse or PHMA, all RMPs are amended as follows: For roads, primitive roads and trails not designated in travel management plans within PHMA, natural reclamation of roads and trails will be allowed in appropriate situations where additional resource damage is not foreseeable. This will include primitive route/roads that were not designated in wilderness study areas and within lands with wilderness characteristics that have been selected to be managed to retain those characteristics for protection. In PHMA, locate new roads that will have relatively high levels of activity (accessing multiple wells, housing development) greater than 1.9 miles from the perimeter of occupied <u>Greater Sage-Grouse</u> leks. Locate new other roads used to provide facility site access and maintenance >0.6 miles from the perimeter of occupied <u>Greater Sage-Grouse</u> leks. Outside of PHMA and/or for values other than Greater Sage-Grouse, the following RMP decisions remain in effect with the modification described above: <u>Kemmerer RMP:</u> Roads and two-track routes determined to be unauthorized or redundant and unnecessary for resource management purposes will be reclaimed to achieve surrounding native conditions. <u>Rawlins RMP:</u> Roads or trails that are eroding beyond a reasonable level will be fixed or closed. <u>JMH</u> <u>CAP:</u> Transportation planning will provide for access to achieve multiple-use goals while providing maximum protection for crucial habitats and sensitive resources and will consider: Closing and rehabilitating unused roads and trails and those causing resource damage. This will be subject to county review of existing rights-of-way needs.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD TTM 7: Within PHMA, when reseeding roads and trails, appropriate seed mixtures will be used and the use of transplanted sagebrush will be considered.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2015 Approved RMPAs	2019 Approved RMPAs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD Special Designations and Other Management Areas: New Greater Sage-Grouse conservation ACECs will not be designated.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.

[From Tables A-2 through A-5 in Appendix A from the 2019 Wyoming Greater Sage-Grouse ARMPA]:

Table 2. Seasonal Habitat Objectives for GRSG

Attribute	Indicators	Desired Condition ⁶	Reference
Breeding and Nesting (Seasonal Use Period March 1–June 15 (Doherty 2008; Holloran and Anderson 2005)			
Lek Security	Proximity of trees	Trees absent or uncommon shrub/grassland ecological sites within 1.8 miles (approximately 3 kilometers) of occupied leks	Baruch-Mordo et al. 2013; Stiver et al. 2015
	Proximity of sagebrush to leks	Adjacent protective sagebrush cover within 330 feet (approximately 100 meters) of an occupied lek	Stiver et al. 2015
Cover	% of seasonal habitat meeting desired conditions	>80% of the nesting habitat meets the recommended vegetation characteristics, where appropriate (relative to ecological site potential, etc.).	Connelly et al. 2000
	Sagebrush cover ²	5 to 25%	Connelly et al. 2000; Connelly et al. 2003; Hagen et al. 2007
	Sagebrush height Arid sites ³ Mesic sites ⁴	4–31 inches (10–80 centimeters) 12–31 inches (30–80 centimeters)	Connelly et al. 2000
	Predominant sagebrush shape	Predominantly spreading shape ⁵	Stiver et al. 2015
	Perennial grass cover (such as native bunchgrass) ² Arid sites ³ Mesic sites ⁴	>10% >15% Cool-season bunchgrasses preferred	Connelly et al. 2000; Stiver et al. 2015; Cagney et al. 2010
	Perennial grass and forb height (including residual grasses)	Adequate nesting cover of ~~>7"~~ or would be as determined by ESD site potential and or best available science in consideration of local variability.	Connelly et al. 2000; Connelly et al. 2003; Doherty et al. 2014; Hagen et al. 2007; Stiver et al. 2015
	Perennial forb cover ² Arid sites ³ Mesic sites ⁴	>5% >10%	Connelly, J. W., M. A. Schroeder, A. R. Sands, and C. E. Braun 2000.

Attribute	Indicators	Desired Condition ⁶	Reference
Brood-Rearing/Summer¹ (Seasonal Use Period June 16–October 31)			
Cover	% of seasonal habitat meeting desired condition	>40% of the summer/brood habitat meets recommended brood habitat characteristics where appropriate (relative to ecological site potential, etc.)	Connelly et al. 2000
	Sagebrush cover ²	5–25%	Connelly et al. 2000
	Sagebrush height	4–32 inches (20.3–80 centimeters)	Connelly et al. 2000
	Perennial grass cover and forbs ²	>5% arid sites >10% mesic sites	Connelly et al. 2000
	Riparian areas/mesic meadows ²	Proper functioning condition	Preferred forbs are listed in Stiver et al. 2015
	Upland and riparian perennial forb availability	Preferred forbs are common with several preferred species present	Stiver et al. 2015
Winter (Seasonal Use Period November 1–February 28)			
Cover and Food	% of seasonal habitat meeting desired conditions	>80% of the wintering habitat meets winter habitat characteristics where appropriate (relative to ecological site, etc.).	Connelly et al. 2000
	Sagebrush cover above snow ²	>5%	Connelly et al. 2000; Stiver et al. 2015
	Sagebrush height above snow	>10 inches (>25 centimeters)	Connelly et al. 2000

Notes:

¹ Where credible data support different seasonal dates than those identified, dates may be shifted, but the amount of days cannot be shortened or lengthened by the local unit.

² Absolute cover is the actual recorded cover and can exceed 100% when recorded across all species and all layers. It is not relative cover, which is the proportions of each species, and equals 100%. Note that cover is reported for only those species (e.g., sagebrush and preferred forbs) that are sampled to determine suitability of habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse. Overall cover at the site will be greater than that sampled for Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, due to other species present. ³ Arid corresponds to the 10-12-inch precipitation zone; *Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis* is a common big sagebrush subspecies for this type site (Stiver et al. 2015).

⁴ Mesic corresponds to the ≥12-inch precipitation zone; *Artemisia tridentata vaseyana* is a common big sagebrush subspecies for this type site (Stiver et al. 2015).

⁵ Collectively, the indicators for sagebrush (cover, height, and shape), perennial grass, and perennial forb (cover, height, and/or availability) represent the desired condition range for nesting/early brood-rearing habitat characteristics, consistent with the breeding habitat suitability matrix identified in Stiver et al. 2015. Sagebrush plants that are more tree or columnar shaped provide less protective cover near the ground than sagebrush plants with a spreading shape (Stiver et al. 2015). Some sagebrush plants are naturally columnar (e.g., Great Basin big sagebrush) and a natural part of the plant community; however, a predominance of columnar shape arising from animal impacts may warrant management investigation or adjustments at site-specific scales.

⁶ All desired conditions will be dependent upon site capability and local variation (e.g., weather patterns, localized drought, and ESD state).

2.16.2 Relevant Appendices

The following table shows which appendices from the 2015 and 2019 plans have management direction that may change through this RMP amendment. If 2019 is not listed in the year, then no change was made to the appendix between the 2015 and 2019 plans. The appendices can be found on [the Wyoming GRSG ePlanning website](#).

ARMPA Appendix Name	Year	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
A: Approved RMP Amendment Maps	2015	Yes
A: Approved RMP Amendment with Management Goals, Objectives, and Decisions	2019	Yes
B: Fluid Mineral Stipulations	2015	Yes
C: Required Design Features	2015	Yes
B: Required Design Features	2019	Yes
D: The Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management Strategy	2015	Yes
C: Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management Strategy	2019	Yes
E: Federal Laws, Regulations, Policies, and Guidance	2015	No
F: Mitigation Guidelines for Surface-Disturbing and Disruptive Activities on Wyoming BLM Lands	2015	No
G: Federal Oil and Gas Operations on Split Estate Lands	2015	No
H: Wyoming Game and Fish Department Protocols for Treating Sagebrush in Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat	2015	No
I: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Criteria	2015	No
J: Disturbance Density Calculation Tool Manual	2015	No
K: Biological Assessment and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Concurrence Letter	2015	No
L: Greater Sage-Grouse Wildfire and Invasive Species Habitat Assessment	2015	No
M: Reclamation Plan	2015	No
N: Predator Management	2015	Yes

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Appendix 2.17

Buffalo, Wyoming RMP Revisions

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2.17 BUFFALO, WYOMING RMP REVISIONS

This appendix presents the approved RMP revision language from the record of decision for the Buffalo RMP that relate to GRSG management. The table below notes which goals, objectives, appendices, and management decisions/actions have a to change as a result of the current planning effort and if so, under which alternatives changes are being considered. Note that any references to tables and appendices are to those applicable RMP appendices that are listed in **Section 2.17.2** of this appendix.

2.17.1 Existing GRSG RMP Management – Buffalo RMP Revisions

Table 1. Summary of Goals, Objectives, and Management Actions to the Buffalo RMP

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MG BR:10: Distribution and abundance of all special status species are optimized.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:10.1: Maintain or enhance special status species plant communities and habitats.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO:10.2: Manage BLM-administered lands to maintain or restore populations and habitat consistent with conservation requirements for special status species.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO:10.3: Develop effective conservation and cooperative management plans, strategies, and agreements with stakeholders.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MG BR:11: Sustainable sagebrush habitats that provide the quantity, quality, and connectivity that is necessary to maintain sustainable populations of Greater Sage-Grouse and other special status species.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MO BR:11.1: Maintain large patches of high quality interconnected sagebrush habitats, with emphasis on patches occupied by Greater Sage-Grouse.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MO BR:11.2: Maintain connectivity between and within sagebrush habitats with emphasis on communities occupied by Greater Sage-Grouse.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MO BR:11.3: In all PHMA, the desired condition is to maintain all lands ecologically capable of producing sagebrush (but no less than 70%) with a minimum of 15% sagebrush cover or as consistent with specific ecological site conditions. The attributes necessary to sustain these habitats are described in Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health (BLM Tech Ref 1734-6).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MG BR:12: Successful restoration and rehabilitation of potential Greater Sage-Grouse habitat across the planning area.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:12.1: Reestablish sagebrush corridors, where feasible, between Greater Sage-Grouse occupied habitats.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

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MO BR:12.2: Reconnect large patches of sagebrush habitat with emphasis on reconnecting patches occupied by stronghold and isolated populations of Greater Sage-Grouse.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD SS WL-4001: Utilize current research, management and conservation plans, and similar related documents to guide special status species habitat management.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD SS WL-4002: Implement actions set forth in recovery plans, conservation measures, terms and conditions, protection measures, and appropriate BMPs and reasonable and prudent measures within biological opinions for Threatened and/or Endangered wildlife species, including those specific to this RMP and any future statewide programmatic biological opinions.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD SS WL-4003: Maintain (size and quality) or enhance current habitat utilized by special status species. Enlarge/restore habitat on a site-specific basis.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD SS WL-4004: Maintain or enhance the integrity of identified special status wildlife species migration corridors. Manage identified special status wildlife species travel corridors consistent with other resource values.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD SS WL-4005: Locate and manage facilities to mitigate noise impacts on special status species.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD SS WL-4006: Manage surface-disturbing and disruptive activities to mitigate impacts on special status wildlife species and their habitats.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD SS WL-4007: Apply a CSU stipulation to fluid mineral leases containing special status species habitat. Surveys required for clearance.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

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*MD SS WL-4010: The BLM will coordinate new recommendations, mitigation, and Greater Sage-Grouse habitat objectives and management considerations with the WGFD and other appropriate agencies, local government cooperators, and the Wyoming SGIT. These measures will be analyzed in site-specific NEPA documents, as necessary. The Greater Sage-Grouse adaptive management plan (Appendix D (p. 325)) provides regulatory assurance that unintended negative impacts to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat will be addressed before consequences become severe or irreversible. Projects requiring an EIS shall develop adaptive management strategies in support of the population management objectives for Greater Sage-Grouse set by the State of Wyoming (State of WY EO 2015-4). Adaptive management triggers are essential for identifying when potential management changes are needed in order to continue meeting Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives. With respect to Greater Sage-Grouse, all regulatory entities in Wyoming, including the BLM, use soft and hard triggers. Soft and hard triggers are focused on three metrics: (1) number of active leks, (2) acres of available habitat, and (3) population trends based on annual lek counts. Soft Triggers Response: Soft triggers require immediate monitoring and surveillance to determine causal factors and may require curtailment of activities in the short- or long-term, as allowed by law. The project level adaptive management strategies will identify appropriate responses where the project's activities are identified as the causal factor. The management agency (BLM) and the Adaptive Management Working Group will implement an appropriate response strategy to address causal factors not attributable to a specific project or to make adjustments at a larger regional or statewide level. Hard Trigger Response: Upon determination that a hard trigger has been tripped, the BLM will immediately defer issuance of discretionary authorizations for new actions within the Biologically Significant Unit for a period of 90 days. In addition,	The BLM will coordinate new recommendations, mitigation, and Greater Sage-Grouse habitat objectives and management considerations with the WGFD and other appropriate agencies, local government cooperators, and the Wyoming Sage-Grouse Implementation Team. These measures will be analyzed in site-specific NEPA documents, as necessary. The Greater Sage-Grouse adaptive management plan (2019 Wyoming GrSG ARMPA Appendix C) provides regulatory assurance that unintended negative impacts to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat will be addressed before consequences become severe or irreversible. Projects requiring an EIS shall develop adaptive management strategies in support of the population management objectives for Greater Sage-Grouse set by the State of Wyoming (State of WY EO 2015-4). Adaptive management triggers are essential for identifying when potential management changes are needed in order to continue meeting Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives. With respect to Greater Sage-Grouse, all regulatory entities in Wyoming, including the BLM, use soft and hard triggers. Soft and hard triggers are focused on three metrics: (1) number of active leks, (2) acres of available habitat, and (3) population trends based on annual lek counts. <u>Soft Triggers Response:</u> Soft triggers require immediate monitoring and surveillance to determine causal factors and may require curtailment of activities in the short- or long-term, as allowed by law. The project level adaptive management strategies will identify appropriate responses where the project's activities are identified as the causal factor. The management agency (BLM) and the Adaptive Management Working Group will implement an appropriate response strategy to address causal factors not attributable to a specific project or to make adjustments at a larger regional or statewide level. <u>Hard Trigger Response:</u> Upon determination that a hard trigger has been tripped, the BLM will immediately defer issuance of discretionary authorizations for new actions within the Biologically Significant Unit for a period of 90 days. In addition,	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

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within 14 days of a determination that a hard trigger has been tripped, the Adaptive Management Working Group will convene to develop an interim response strategy and initiate an assessment to determine the causal factor or factors (hereafter called the causal factor assessment).	within 14 days of a determination that a hard trigger has been tripped, the Adaptive Management Working Group will convene to develop an interim response strategy and initiate an assessment to determine the causal factor or factors (hereafter called the causal factor assessment). The Adaptive Management Working Group would define a process to review and reverse adaptive management actions once the identified causal factor is resolved (e.g., returning to previous management once objectives of interim management strategy have been met).	(See above.)
MD SS WL-4011: Develop avoidance areas restricting the application of broad-spectrum pesticides in areas containing Greater Sage-Grouse nesting and brood-rearing habitats.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD SS WL-4012: Restore Greater Sage-Grouse brood-rearing habitats in wetland/riparian areas. Maintain seeps, springs, wet meadows, and riparian vegetation in a functional and diverse condition for young Greater Sage-Grouse and other species that depend on forbs and insects associated with these areas.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
**MD SS WL-4013: Manage vegetation composition, diversity and structure, as determined by ecological site description and WGFD protocol, to achieve Greater Sage-Grouse habitat management objectives, in cooperation with stakeholders. Vegetation treatments in nesting and wintering habitat that would reduce sagebrush canopy cover to less than 15% would not be conducted unless it can be shown to be beneficial to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat and removal of sagebrush canopy cover below 15% will be subject to the DDCT. For vegetation treatments in sagebrush within PHMAs, refer to Appendix A, WGFD Protocols for Treating Sagebrush to Benefit Sage-Grouse (WGFD 2011, as updated). These recommended protocols, subject to seasonal conditions of approval, would be used in determining whether proposed treatment constitutes a “disturbance” that would contribute toward the 5% threshold for habitat maintenance. Additionally, these protocols would be used to determine whether the proposed treatment configuration would be expected to have neutral or beneficial impacts for PHMA (core only) populations or if they represent additional habitat loss or fragmentation. Treatments to enhance sagebrush/grasslands habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse would be evaluated based upon habitat quality and the functionality/use of treated habitats post-treatment. The BLM would work collaboratively with partners at the state and local level to maintain and enhance Greater Sage-Grouse habitats. Seasonal restrictions would be applied, as needed, for implementing fuels management treatments according to the type of seasonal habitat present. Wildland fire burns will be treated as disturbance if sagebrush is reduced below 5% canopy cover, unless there is an implementation plan outlining restoration efforts and 3 years of data showing a trend back to suitable habitat. Burned areas within PHMAs would be restored to suitable habitat with consideration given to ESDs, reference sites, site potential and local variability.	Manage vegetation composition, diversity and structure, as determined by ecological site description and WGFD protocols, to achieve Greater Sage-Grouse habitat management objectives, in cooperation with stakeholders. Vegetation treatments in nesting and wintering habitat that would reduce sagebrush canopy cover to less than 15% would not be conducted unless it can be shown to be beneficial to sage-grouse habitat and removal of sagebrush canopy cover below 15% will be subject to the DDCT. For vegetation treatments in sagebrush within PHMAs, refer to 2015 Buffalo RMP Appendix A, WGFD Protocols for Treating Sagebrush to Benefit Sage-Grouse (WGFD 2015, as updated). These recommended protocols, subject to seasonal conditions of approval, would be used in determining whether proposed treatment constitutes a “disturbance” that would contribute toward the 5% threshold for habitat maintenance. Additionally, these protocols would be used to determine whether the proposed treatment configuration would be expected to have neutral or beneficial impacts for PHMA (core only) populations or if they represent additional habitat loss or fragmentation. Treatments to enhance sagebrush/grasslands habitat for sage-grouse would be evaluated based upon habitat quality and the functionality/use of treated habitats post-treatment. The BLM would work collaboratively with partners at the state and local level to maintain and enhance sage-grouse habitats. Seasonal restrictions would be applied, as needed, for implementing fuels management treatments according to the type of seasonal habitat present. Wildland fire burns will be treated as disturbance if sagebrush is reduced below 5% canopy cover, unless there is an implementation plan outlining restoration efforts and 3 years of data showing a trend back to suitable habitat. Burned areas within PHMAs would be restored to suitable habitat with consideration given to ESDs, reference sites, site potential and local variability.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD SS WL-4014: Minimize disturbances that would result in alterations to springs and riparian Greater Sage-Grouse habitat. In coordination with stakeholders, develop alternative water sources to replace natural sources that have been affected or destroyed.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD SS WL-4015: Manage stored water to control mosquitoes and prevent the spread of VNV to Greater Sage-Grouse.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD SS WL-4016: Design water facilities with protective features to reduce mortality of Greater Sage-Grouse from drowning or entrapment.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD SS WL-4017: Design and locate fences to reduce impacts to important Greater Sage-Grouse habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD SS WL-4018: Use the Fire Management Plan to incorporate the most current sagebrush habitat information and to guide fire suppression priorities in sagebrush habitats.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD SS WL-4019: Remove conifers where they have encroached upon Greater Sage-Grouse habitat in cooperation with stakeholders. Reduce the density of conifers that have encroached into, but do not yet dominate sagebrush plant communities.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD SS WL-4020: Inventory, record, and report existing type and condition of BLM fences. Prioritize areas and annually implement modifications to existing fences to reduce hazards to flying Greater Sage-Grouse, in cooperation with stakeholders. All new fences, in priority areas, will be properly designed and located to avoid hazards to flying Greater Sage-Grouse.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD SS WL-4021: Avoid renewable energy (solar and wind) projects in Greater Sage-Grouse Core Population Areas unless it can be demonstrated that the activity would not result in declines of core Greater Sage-Grouse populations. Sufficient demonstration of “no declines” should be coordinated with the WGFD and USFWS.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

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**MD SS WL-4022: Powerlines (distribution and transmission) will be designed to minimize wildlife related impacts. This action includes but is not limited to: • Avoid areas of high avian use such as water bodies (including ponds, lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands), ridge tops, prairie dog colonies, Greater Sage-Grouse Core Population and Core Population Connectivity Corridors, and sharp-tailed grouse leks (PRB Final EIS, EO 2011-05). • Prohibit above ground distribution powerlines unless identified in an approved distribution plan. • PHMA: ○ New transmission lines greater than 115 kV in PHMA (core only) would be allowed only: (1) when located within 0.5 mile or less of an existing 115 kV or greater transmission line or constructed prior to 2008; or (2) in designated RMP corridors authorized for aboveground transmission lines. Transmission lines routed using one or more of the two criteria listed above will not be counted against the DDCT 5% disturbance cap. New transmission lines greater than 115 kV proposed outside of these areas would be considered where it can be demonstrated that declines in Greater Sage-Grouse populations could be avoided through project design and/or mitigation. These projects will be subject to the density and disturbance restrictions for PHMA. Construction of new transmission lines will adhere to the restrictions associated with conducting activities within PHMAs. Review of transmission line proposals would incorporate the Framework for Sage-grouse Impacts Analysis for Interstate Transmission Lines and other appropriate documents consistent with the three routing criteria described above. ○ New electric distribution lines (less than 115 kV) would be buried where feasible and economically feasible. If not economically feasible, distribution lines may be authorized when effectively designed/mitigated to protect Greater Sage-Grouse and the authorized officer determines that overhead installation is the action alternative with the fewest	Powerlines (distribution and transmission) will be designed to minimize wildlife related impacts. This action includes but is not limited to: • Avoid areas of high avian use such as water bodies (including ponds, lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands), ridge tops, prairie dog colonies, Greater Sage-Grouse Core Population and Core Population Connectivity Corridors, and sharp-tailed grouse leks (PRB Final EIS, EO 2015-4). • Prohibit above ground distribution powerlines unless identified in an approved distribution plan. • PHMA: ○ New transmission lines greater than 115 kV in PHMA (core only) would be allowed only: (1) when located within 0.5 mile or less of an existing 115 kV or greater transmission line or constructed prior to 2008; or (2) in designated RMP corridors authorized for aboveground transmission lines. Transmission lines routed using one or more of the two criteria listed above will not be counted against the DDCT 5% disturbance cap. New transmission lines greater than 115 kV proposed outside of these areas would be considered where it can be demonstrated that declines in Greater Sage-Grouse populations could be avoided through project design and/or mitigation. These projects will be subject to the density and disturbance restrictions for PHMA. Construction of new transmission lines will adhere to the restrictions associated with conducting activities within PHMAs. Review of transmission line proposals would incorporate the Framework for Sage-grouse Impacts Analysis for Interstate Transmission Lines and other appropriate documents consistent with the three routing criteria described above. ○ New electric distribution lines (less than 115 kV) would be buried where feasible and economically feasible. If not economically feasible, distribution lines may be authorized when effectively designed/mitigated to protect Greater Sage-Grouse and the authorized officer determines that overhead installation is the action alternative with the fewest	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

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adverse impacts while still meeting the project need. Agricultural and residential lines will be considered to be adequately mitigated for Greater Sage-Grouse if constructed at least 0.6 mile from the lek perimeter with appropriate timing constraints and constructed to the latest APLIC guidance. These ROW authorizations will be subject to approval by the State Director. Within GHMA: Within general Greater Sage-Grouse habitat (outside core population and connectivity areas) overhead - powerlines will be located at least 0.5 mile from occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (modified from PRB Final EIS). Any new powerlines authorized within the above identified areas will be buried or if overhead then constructed to the latest APLIC guidance (modified from PRB Final EIS). - New pipelines through PHMA would be allowed: (1) within an RMP corridor currently authorized for that use or designated through future RMP amendments; or (2) constructed in or adjacent to existing utilities (buried and above-ground) or roads. Pipelines constructed in RMP corridors or adjacent to existing utilities or roads will require completion of a DDCT analysis for baseline data collection but the project is not required to meet the threshold of 5%. However, within 6 months of the completion of construction, the project proponent will provide the authorized officer with as-built drawings so that total disturbance within core area can be calculated annually. PHMA is designated as avoidance areas for high voltage transmission line and pipeline ROWs. All authorizations must comply with the conservation measures outlined in this approved plan, including the RDFs and avoidance criteria presented in Appendix C (p. 285) of this document.	adverse impacts while still meeting the project need. Agricultural and residential lines will be considered to be adequately mitigated for Greater Sage-Grouse if constructed at least 0.6 mile from the lek perimeter (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped) with appropriate timing constraints and constructed to the latest APLIC guidance. These ROW authorizations will be subject to approval by the State Director. Within GHMA: Within general Greater Sage-Grouse habitat (outside core population and connectivity areas) overhead powerlines will be located at least 0.5 mile from occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (modified from PRB Final EIS). Any new powerlines authorized within the above identified areas will be buried or if overhead then constructed to the latest APLIC guidance (modified from PRB Final EIS). New pipelines through PHMA would be allowed: (1) within an RMP corridor currently authorized for that use or designated through future RMP amendments; or (2) constructed in or adjacent to existing utilities (buried and above-ground) or roads. Pipelines constructed in RMP corridors or adjacent to existing utilities or roads will require completion of a DDCT analysis for baseline data collection but the project is not required to meet the threshold of 5%. However, within 6 months of the completion of construction, the project proponent will provide the authorized officer with as-built drawings so that total disturbance within core area can be calculated annually. PHMA is designated as avoidance areas for high voltage transmission line and pipeline ROWs. All authorizations must comply with the conservation measures outlined in this approved plan, including the RDF and avoidance criteria presented in 2019 Wyoming GrSG ARMPA Appendix B.	(See above.)

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**MD SS WL-4023: Lease fluid minerals dependent upon lease location and habitat suitability. Ensure that leasing activities in PHMA comply with Greater Sage-Grouse RMP decisions and remain in compliance with laws, regulations and policy.	Lease fluid minerals dependent upon lease location and habitat suitability. Ensure that leasing activities in PHMA comply with Greater Sage-Grouse resource management plan decisions and remain in compliance with laws, regulations and policy (see also MD SS WL-4024 and MS SS WL-4036).	Potential change under Alternative 3.
*MD SS WL-4024: Apply the following stipulations to fluid mineral leases within Greater Sage-Grouse Core Population Areas: • NSO prohibiting surface occupancy and disturbing activities, within 0.6 mile of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (independent of habitat suitability). • CSU within Greater Sage-Grouse Core Population Areas ○ In Greater Sage-Grouse core population areas, the density of disturbance of a facility (oil and gas or mining) would be limited to an average of one site per square mile (640 acres) within the DDCT, subject to valid existing rights and applicable law. The one location and cumulative value of existing disturbances will not exceed 5% of suitable habitat of the DDCT area using the DDCT process. Inside Greater Sage-Grouse (priority habitat) core population areas, all suitable habitat disturbed (any program area) will not exceed 5% of suitable habitat within the DDCT area using the DDCT process. ○ Design and manage facilities to prevent WNV transmission. ○ Locate new Local or Collector roads (as defined in BLM Manual 9113) greater than 1.9 miles from the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks. Locate new roads greater than 0.6 mile from the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks. ○ Restore disturbed sagebrush communities on BLM surface to meet the Wyoming DEQ community-specific full shrub density standard (Chapter 4 Rules and Regulations, option III) for all predisturbance shrub species and 5% minimum canopy cover of sagebrush. A 90% confidence interval is required to demonstrate achievement of the	Apply the following stipulations to fluid mineral leases within Greater Sage-Grouse Core Population Areas: • NSO prohibiting surface occupancy and disturbing activities, within 0.6 mile of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped) (independent of habitat suitability). • CSU within Greater Sage-Grouse Core Population Areas: ○ In Greater Sage-Grouse core population areas, the density of disturbance of a facility (oil and gas or mining) would be limited to an average of one site per square mile (640 acres) within the DDCT, subject to valid existing rights and applicable law. The one location and cumulative value of existing disturbances will not exceed 5% of suitable habitat of the DDCT area using the DDCT process. Inside Greater Sage-Grouse (priority habitat) core population areas, all suitable habitat disturbed (any program area) will not exceed 5% of suitable habitat within the DDCT area using the DDCT process. ○ Design and manage facilities to prevent WNV transmission. ○ Locate new Local or Collector roads (as defined in BLM Manual 9113) greater than 1.9 miles from the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped). Locate new roads greater than 0.6 mile from the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped). ○ Restore disturbed sagebrush communities on BLM surface to meet the Wyoming DEQ community-specific full shrub density standard (Chapter 4 Rules and Regulations, option III) for all predisturbance shrub species and 5%	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.

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standard. The standard must be demonstrated the last year of the responsibility period, and all planted shrubs shall have been in place for at least two years. • TLS prohibiting surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities from March 15 to June 30 (independent of habitat suitability). Activities in unsuitable habitats would be evaluated under the exception and modification criteria and could be allowed on a case-by-case basis. Where credible data support different timeframes for this seasonal restriction, dates may be adjusted by up to 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates. • TLS prohibiting surface-disturbing and disruptive activities within mapped Greater Sage-Grouse winter concentration areas, from December 1 to March 14. Activities in unsuitable habitats within PHMAs would be evaluated under the exception and modification criteria and could be allowed on a case-by-case basis. Where credible data support different timeframes for this seasonal restriction, dates may be adjusted by up to 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates. Apply the following stipulations to fluid mineral leases within Greater Sage-Grouse Core Population Connectivity Corridors: • NSO prohibiting surface occupancy and disturbing activities, within 0.6 mile of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (independent of habitat suitability). • CSU within Greater Sage-Grouse Population Connectivity Corridors. ○ Inside Greater Sage-Grouse (priority habitat) core population area connectivity corridors, all suitable habitat disturbed (any program area) will not exceed 5% of suitable habitat within the DDCT area using the DDCT process. ○ Design and manage facilities to prevent WNV transmission. ○ Restore disturbed sagebrush communities on BLM surface to meet the Wyoming DEQ community-specific full shrub density standard (Chapter 4 Rules and Regulations, option III) for all	minimum canopy cover of sagebrush. A 90% confidence interval is required to demonstrate achievement of the standard. The standard must be demonstrated the last year of the responsibility period, and all planted shrubs shall have been in place for at least two years. • TLS prohibiting surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities from March 15 to June 30 (independent of habitat suitability). The authorized officer may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis subject to appropriate site-specific analysis, mitigation requirements, and consultation with the State of Wyoming and consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming's Executive Order 2015-4) (see MD SS WL-4036). Where credible data support different timeframes for this seasonal restriction, dates may be expanded by up to 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates. • TLS prohibiting surface-disturbing and disruptive activities within mapped Greater Sage-Grouse winter concentration areas, from December 1 to March 14. The authorized officer may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis subject to appropriate site-specific analysis, mitigation requirements, and consultation with the State of Wyoming and consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming's Executive Order 2015-4) (see MD SS WL-4036). Protection of additional mapped winter concentration areas in GHMA would be implemented where winter concentration areas are mapped and designated by the State of Wyoming. Appropriate seasonal timing restrictions and habitat protection measures would be considered and evaluated in consultation with the WGFD in all identified winter concentration areas. Where credible data support different timeframes for this seasonal restriction, dates may be expanded by up to 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates. Apply the following stipulations to fluid mineral leases within Greater Sage-Grouse Core Population Connectivity Corridors:	(See above.)

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predisturbance shrub species and 5% minimum canopy cover of sagebrush. A 90% confidence interval is required to demonstrate achievement of the standard. The standard must be demonstrated the last year of the responsibility period, and all planted shrubs shall have been in place for at least two years. • TLS prohibiting surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities within 4.0 miles of an occupied Greater Sage-Grouse lek, from March 15 to June 30 (independent of habitat suitability and restricted to within Population Connectivity Corridors). Activities in unsuitable habitats would be evaluated under the exception and modification criteria and could be allowed on a case by case basis. Where credible data support different timeframes for this seasonal restriction, dates may be adjusted by up to 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates. • TLS prohibiting surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities within mapped Greater Sage-Grouse winter concentration areas, from December 1 to March 14. Activities in unsuitable habitats would be evaluated under the exception and modification criteria and could be allowed on a case by case basis. Where credible data support different timeframes for this seasonal restriction, dates may be adjusted by up to 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates. Apply the following stipulations to fluid mineral leases within Greater Sage-Grouse habitat outside of Core Population Areas and Core Population Connectivity Corridors: • NSO prohibiting surface occupancy and disturbing activities, within 0.25 mile of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks. • CSU within 0.25 mile of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks. ○ Design and manage facilities to prevent WNV transmission. • CSU – Restore disturbed sagebrush communities on BLM surface to meet the Wyoming DEQ community-specific full shrub density standard (Chapter 4 Rules and Regulations, option III) for all	• NSO prohibiting surface occupancy and disturbing activities, within 0.6 mile of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped) (independent of habitat suitability). • CSU within Greater Sage-Grouse Population Connectivity Corridors. ○ Inside Greater Sage-Grouse (priority habitat) core population area connectivity corridors, all suitable habitat disturbed (any program area) will not exceed 5% of suitable habitat within the DDCT area using the DDCT process. ○ Design and manage facilities to prevent WNV transmission. ○ Restore disturbed sagebrush communities on BLM surface to meet the Wyoming DEQ community-specific full shrub density standard (Chapter 4 Rules and Regulations, option III) for all predisturbance shrub species and 5% minimum canopy cover of sagebrush. A 90% confidence interval is required to demonstrate achievement of the standard. The standard must be demonstrated the last year of the responsibility period, and all planted shrubs shall have been in place for at least two years. • TLS prohibiting surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities within 4.0 miles of an occupied Greater Sage-Grouse lek, from March 15 to June 30 (independent of habitat suitability and restricted to within Population Connectivity Corridors). The authorized officer may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis subject to appropriate site-specific analysis, mitigation requirements, and consultation with the State of Wyoming and consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming's Executive Order 2015-4) (see MD SS WL-4036). Where credible data support different timeframes for this seasonal restriction, dates may be expanded by up to 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates. • TLS prohibiting surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities within mapped Greater Sage-Grouse winter	(See above.)

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predisturbance shrub species and 5% minimum canopy cover of sagebrush. A 90% confidence interval is required to demonstrate achievement of the standard. The standard must be demonstrated the last year of the responsibility period, and all planted shrubs shall have been in place for at least two years. Recommend for all surface-disturbing activities on BLM surface adjacent to Core or Connectivity Population Areas, or within or adjacent to lands involved in Greater Sage-Grouse conservation projects. • TLS prohibiting surface-disturbing and disruptive activities within 2.0 miles of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks, from March 15 to June 30 (independent of habitat suitability). Activities in unsuitable habitats would be evaluated under the exception and modification criteria and could be allowed on a case by case basis. Where credible data support different timeframes for this seasonal restriction, dates may be adjusted by up to 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates. • TLS protecting mapped winter concentration areas, from December 1 to March 14, in GHMA would be implemented only where winter concentration areas are identified as supporting biologically significant numbers of Greater Sage-Grouse nesting in PHMA and/or attending leks within PHMA (core only). Appropriate seasonal timing restrictions and habitat protection measures would be considered and evaluated in consultation with the WGFD in all identified winter concentration areas. Where credible data support different timeframes for this seasonal restriction, dates may be adjusted by up to 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates. In cases where federal oil and gas leases are or have been issued without stipulated restrictions or requirements that are later found to be necessary, or with stipulated restrictions or requirements later found to be insufficient, consider their inclusion before approving subsequent exploration and development activities. Include these	concentration areas, from December 1 to March 14. The authorized officer may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis subject to appropriate site-specific analysis, mitigation requirements, and consultation with the State of Wyoming and consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming's Executive Order 2015-4) (see MD SS WL-4036). Protection of additional mapped winter concentration areas in GHMA would be implemented where winter concentration areas are mapped and designated by the State of Wyoming. Appropriate seasonal timing restrictions and habitat protection measures would be considered and evaluated in consultation with the WGFD in all identified winter concentration areas. Where credible data support different timeframes for this seasonal restriction, dates may be expanded by up to 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates. Apply the following stipulations to fluid mineral leases within Greater Sage-Grouse habitat outside of Core Population Areas and Core Population Connectivity Corridors: • NSO prohibiting surface occupancy and disturbing activities, within 0.25 mile of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped). • CSU within 0.25 mile of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks. ○ Design and manage facilities to prevent WNV transmission. • CSU – Restore disturbed sagebrush communities on BLM surface to meet the Wyoming DEQ community-specific full shrub density standard (Chapter 4 Rules and Regulations, option III) for all predisturbance shrub species and 5% minimum canopy cover of sagebrush. A 90% confidence interval is required to demonstrate achievement of the standard. The standard must be demonstrated the last year of the responsibility period, and all planted shrubs shall have been in place for at least two years. Recommend for all surface-disturbing activities on BLM surface adjacent to Core or Connectivity Population Areas, or within	(See above.)

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restrictions or requirements only as reasonable measures or as conditions of approval in authorizing APDs or Master Development Plans. Conversely, in cases where leases are or have been issued with stipulated restrictions or requirements that are later found to be excessive or unnecessary, the stipulated restrictions or requirements may be appropriately modified, excepted or waived in authorizing actions. Both the application of reasonable measures or COAs and the modification or exception of stipulated restrictions or requirements must first be based upon site-specific analysis including the necessary supporting NEPA. Note (PHMA and GHMA): The authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental record of review determines that the action, as proposed or conditioned, would not impair the function or utility of the site for the current or subsequent seasonal habitat, life-history, or behavioral needs of Greater Sage-Grouse.	or adjacent to lands involved in Greater Sage-Grouse conservation projects. • TLS prohibiting surface-disturbing and disruptive activities within 2.0 miles of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks, from March 15 to June 30 (independent of habitat suitability). The authorized officer may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis subject to appropriate site-specific analysis, mitigation requirements, and consultation with the State of Wyoming and consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming's Executive Order 2015-4) (see MD SS WL-4036). Where credible data support different timeframes for this seasonal restriction, dates may be expanded by up to 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates. • TLS protecting mapped winter concentration areas, from December 1 to March 14, in GHMA would be implemented only where winter concentration areas are identified. Protection of additional mapped winter concentration areas in GHMA would be implemented where winter concentration areas are mapped and designated by the State of Wyoming. Appropriate seasonal timing restrictions and habitat protection measures would be considered and evaluated in consultation with the WGFD in all identified winter concentration areas. Where credible data support different timeframes for this seasonal restriction, dates may be expanded by up to 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates. In cases where federal oil and gas leases are or have been issued without stipulated restrictions or requirements that are later found to be necessary, or with stipulated restrictions or requirements later found to be insufficient, consider their inclusion before approving subsequent exploration and development activities. Include these restrictions or requirements only as reasonable measures or as conditions of approval in authorizing APDs or Master Development Plans. Conversely, in cases where leases are or have been issued with stipulated restrictions or requirements that are later found to be	(See above.)

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
(See above.)	excessive or unnecessary, the stipulated restrictions or requirements may be appropriately modified, excepted or waived in authorizing actions. Both the application of reasonable measures or COAs and the modification or exception of stipulated restrictions or requirements must first be based upon site-specific analysis including the necessary supporting NEPA. Note (PHMA and GHMA): The authorized officer may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis subject to appropriate site-specific analysis, mitigation requirements, and consultation with the State of Wyoming and consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming's Executive Order 2015-4) (see MD SS WL-4036).	(See above.)
*MD SS WL-4025: Manage Greater Sage-Grouse Core Population Areas as follows: - Prohibit surface-disturbing activities and occupancy within 0.6 mile of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (independent of habitat suitability). - In Greater Sage-Grouse core population areas, the density of disturbance of a facility (oil and gas or mining) would be limited to an average of one site per square mile (640 acres) within the DDCT, subject to valid existing rights and applicable law. The one location and cumulative value of existing disturbances will not exceed 5 percent of suitable habitat of the DDCT area using the DDCT process. - Inside Greater Sage-Grouse (priority habitat) core population areas and connectivity corridors, all suitable habitat disturbed (any program area) will not exceed 5% of suitable habitat within the DDCT area using the DDCT process. - Design and manage facilities to prevent WNV transmission. - New project noise levels, either individual or cumulative, should not exceed 10 dBA (as measured by L50) above baseline noise at the perimeter of the lek from 6:00 pm to 8:00 am during the breeding season (March 1- May 15).	Manage Greater Sage-Grouse Core Population Areas as follows: - Prohibit surface-disturbing activities and occupancy within 0.6 mile of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped) (independent of habitat suitability). - In Greater Sage-Grouse core population areas, the density of disturbance of a facility (oil and gas or mining) would be limited to an average of one site per square mile (640 acres) within the DDCT, subject to valid existing rights and applicable law. The one location and cumulative value of existing disturbances will not exceed 5 percent of suitable habitat of the DDCT area using the DDCT process. - Inside Greater Sage-Grouse (priority habitat) core population areas and connectivity corridors, all suitable habitat disturbed (any program area) will not exceed 5% of suitable habitat within the DDCT area using the DDCT process. - Design and manage facilities to prevent WNV transmission. - New project noise levels, either individual or cumulative, should not exceed 10 dBA (as measured by L50) above baseline noise at the perimeter of the lek (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped) from 6:00 pm to 8:00 am during the breeding season (March 1- May 15). Specific noise protocols for	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
• Specific noise protocols for measurement and implementation will be developed as additional research and information emerges. ○ Locate new Local or Collector roads (as defined in BLM Manual 9113) greater than 1.9 miles from the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks. Locate new Resource roads greater than 0.6 mile from the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks. ○ Restore disturbed sagebrush communities on BLM surface to meet the Wyoming DEQ community-specific full shrub density standard (Chapter 4 Rules and Regulations, option III) for all predisturbance shrub species and 5% minimum canopy cover of sagebrush. A 90% confidence interval is required to demonstrate achievement of the standard. The standard must be demonstrated the last year of the responsibility period, and all planted shrubs shall have been in place for at least two years. • Prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities from March 15 to June 30 (independent of habitat suitability). Activities in unsuitable habitats would be evaluated under the exception and modification criteria and could be allowed on a case by case basis. Where credible data support different timeframes for this seasonal restriction, dates may be expanded by up to 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates. • Prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities within mapped Greater Sage-Grouse winter concentration areas, from December 1 to March 14. Activities in unsuitable habitats within PHMAs would be evaluated under the exception and modification criteria and could be allowed on a case-by-case basis. Where credible data support different timeframes for this seasonal restriction, dates may be expanded by up to 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates. To the extent necessary to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation, manage as follows within Greater Sage-Grouse Core Population Connectivity Corridors:	measurement and implementation will be developed as additional research and information emerges. These measure would be considered at the site-specific project level where and when appropriate. ○ Locate new Local or Collector roads (as defined in BLM Manual 9113) greater than 1.9 miles from the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks. Locate new Resource roads greater than 0.6 mile from the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped). ○ Restore disturbed sagebrush communities on BLM surface to meet the Wyoming DEQ community-specific full shrub density standard (Chapter 4 Rules and Regulations, option III) for all predisturbance shrub species and 5% minimum canopy cover of sagebrush. A 90% confidence interval is required to demonstrate achievement of the standard. The standard must be demonstrated the last year of the responsibility period, and all planted shrubs shall have been in place for at least two years. • Prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities from March 15 to June 30 (independent of habitat suitability). The authorized officer may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis subject to appropriate site-specific analysis, mitigation requirements, and consultation with the State of Wyoming and consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming's Executive Order 2015-4) (see MD SS WL-4036). Where credible data support different timeframes for this seasonal restriction, dates may be expanded by up to 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates. • Prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities within mapped Greater Sage-Grouse winter concentration areas, from December 1 to March 14. The authorized officer may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis subject to appropriate site-specific analysis, mitigation requirements, and consultation with the State of	(See above.)

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
• Prohibit surface occupancy and disturbing activities, within 0.6 mile of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (independent of habitat suitability). • In Greater Sage-Grouse Core Population Connectivity Corridors, subject to valid existing rights and applicable law, the cumulative value of existing disturbances will not exceed 5% of suitable habitat of the DDCT area using the DDCT process. Inside Greater Sage-Grouse (priority habitat) core population areas and connectivity corridors, all suitable habitat disturbed (any program area) will not exceed 5% of suitable habitat within the DDCT area using the DDCT process. ○ Design and manage facilities to prevent WNV transmission. ○ Restore disturbed sagebrush communities on BLM surface to meet the Wyoming DEQ community-specific full shrub density standard (Chapter 4 Rules and Regulations, option III) for all predisturbance shrub species and 5% minimum canopy cover of sagebrush. A 90% confidence interval is required to demonstrate achievement of the standard. The standard must be demonstrated the last year of the responsibility period, and all planted shrubs shall have been in place for at least two years. • Prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities within 4.0 miles of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks from March 15 to June 30 (independent of habitat suitability and restricted to within Population Connectivity Areas). Activities in unsuitable habitats would be evaluated under the exception and modification criteria and could be allowed on a case by case basis. Where credible data support different timeframes for this seasonal restriction, dates may be expanded by up to 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates. • Prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities within mapped Greater Sage-Grouse winter concentration areas, from December 1 to March 14. Activities in unsuitable habitats within PHMAs would be evaluated under the exception and modification criteria and could be allowed	Wyoming and consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming's Executive Order 2015-4) (see MD SS WL-4036). Protection of additional mapped winter concentration areas in GHMA would be implemented where winter concentration areas are mapped and designated by the State of Wyoming. Appropriate seasonal timing restrictions and habitat protection measures would be considered and evaluated in consultation with the WGFD in all identified winter concentration areas. Where credible data support different timeframes for this seasonal restriction, dates may be expanded by up to 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates. To the extent necessary to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation, manage as follows within Greater Sage-Grouse Core Population Connectivity Corridors: • Prohibit surface occupancy and disturbing activities, within 0.6 mile of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped) (independent of habitat suitability). • In Greater Sage-Grouse Core Population Connectivity Corridors, subject to valid existing rights and applicable law, the cumulative value of existing disturbances will not exceed 5% of suitable habitat of the DDCT area using the DDCT process. Inside Greater Sage-Grouse (priority habitat) core population areas and connectivity corridors, all suitable habitat disturbed (any program area) will not exceed 5% of suitable habitat within the DDCT area using the DDCT process. ○ Design and manage facilities to prevent WNV transmission. ○ Restore disturbed sagebrush communities on BLM surface to meet the Wyoming DEQ community-specific full shrub density standard (Chapter 4 Rules and Regulations, option III) for all predisturbance shrub species and 5% minimum canopy cover of sagebrush. A 90% confidence interval is required to demonstrate achievement of the standard. The standard must be demonstrated the last year of the responsibility period, and all planted	(See above.)

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
on a case-by-case basis. Where credible data support different timeframes for this seasonal restriction, dates may be expanded by up to 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates. Manage as follows within occupied Greater Sage-Grouse habitat outside of Core Population and Core Population Connectivity Corridors: • Prohibit or restrict surface occupancy and disturbing activities within 0.25 mile of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks. • Reduce surface disturbance for authorizations within 0.25 mile of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks by: ○ Design and manage facilities to prevent WNV transmission. • Restore disturbed sagebrush communities on BLM surface to meet the Wyoming DEQ community-specific full shrub density standard (Chapter 4 Rules and Regulations, option III) for all predisturbance shrub species and 5% minimum canopy cover of sagebrush. A 90% confidence interval is required to demonstrate achievement of the standard. The standard must be demonstrated the last year of the responsibility period, and all planted shrubs shall have been in place for at least two years. Recommend for all surface-disturbing activities on BLM surface adjacent to core or connectivity population areas, within or adjacent to lands involved in Greater Sage-Grouse conservation projects. BLM parcels less than 640 acres that only meet the population density factor may be excluded. • Prohibit surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities within 2.0 miles of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks, from March 15 to June 30 (independent of habitat suitability). Activities in unsuitable habitats would be evaluated under the exception and modification criteria and could be allowed on a case by case basis. Where credible data support different timeframes for this seasonal restriction, dates may be expanded by up to 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates.	shrubs shall have been in place for at least two years. • Prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities within 4.0 miles of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks from March 15 to June 30 (independent of habitat suitability and restricted to within Population Connectivity Areas). The authorized officer may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis subject to appropriate site-specific analysis, mitigation requirements, and consultation with the State of Wyoming and consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming's Executive Order 2015-4) (see MD SS WL-4036). Where credible data support different timeframes for this seasonal restriction, dates may be expanded by up to 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates. • Prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities within mapped Greater Sage-Grouse winter concentration areas, from December 1 to March 14. The authorized officer may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis subject to appropriate site-specific analysis, mitigation requirements, and consultation with the State of Wyoming and consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming's Executive Order 2015-4) (see MD SS WL-4036). Protection of additional mapped winter concentration areas in GHMA would be implemented where winter concentration areas are mapped and designated by the State of Wyoming. Appropriate seasonal timing restrictions and habitat protection measures would be considered and evaluated in consultation with the WGFD in all identified winter concentration areas. Where credible data support different timeframes for this seasonal restriction, dates may be expanded by up to 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates. Manage as follows within occupied Greater Sage-Grouse habitat outside of Core Population and Core Population Connectivity Corridors: • Prohibit or restrict surface occupancy and disturbing activities within 0.25 mile of the	(See above.)

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Protect mapped winter concentration areas, from December 1 to March 14, in GHMA would be implemented only where winter concentration areas are identified as supporting biologically significant numbers of Greater Sage-Grouse nesting in PHMA and/or attending leks within PHMA (core only). Appropriate seasonal timing restrictions and habitat protection measures would be considered and evaluated in consultation with the WGFD in all identified winter concentration areas. Where credible data support different timeframes for this seasonal restriction, dates may be expanded by up to 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates. Note (PHMA and GHMA): The authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental record of review determines that the action, as proposed or conditioned, would not impair the function or utility of the site for the current or subsequent seasonal habitat, life-history, or behavioral needs of Greater Sage-Grouse.	perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped). - Reduce surface disturbance for authorizations within 0.25 mile of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks by: - Design and manage facilities to prevent WNV transmission. - Restore disturbed sagebrush communities on BLM surface to meet the Wyoming DEQ community-specific full shrub density standard (Chapter 4 Rules and Regulations, option III) for all predisturbance shrub species and 5% minimum canopy cover of sagebrush. A 90% confidence interval is required to demonstrate achievement of the standard. The standard must be demonstrated the last year of the responsibility period, and all planted shrubs shall have been in place for at least two years. Recommend for all surface-disturbing activities on BLM surface adjacent to core or connectivity population areas, within or adjacent to lands involved in Greater Sage-Grouse conservation projects. BLM parcels less than 640 acres that only meet the population density factor may be excluded. - Prohibit surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities within 2.0 miles of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks, from March 15 to June 30 (independent of habitat suitability). The authorized officer may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis subject to appropriate site-specific analysis, mitigation requirements, and consultation with the State of Wyoming and consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming's Executive Order 2015-4) (see MD SS WL-4036). Where credible data support different timeframes for this seasonal restriction, dates may be expanded by up to 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates. - Protect mapped winter concentration areas, from December 1 to March 14, in GHMA, only where winter concentration areas are identified. Protection of additional mapped winter concentration areas in GHMA would be implemented where winter concentration areas are	(See above.)

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
(See above.)	mapped and designated by the State of Wyoming. Appropriate seasonal timing restrictions and habitat protection measures would be considered and evaluated in consultation with the WGFD in all identified winter concentration areas. Where credible data support different timeframes for this seasonal restriction, dates may be expanded by up to 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates. Note (PHMA and GHMA): The authorized officer may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis subject to appropriate site-specific analysis, mitigation requirements, and consultation with the State of Wyoming and consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming's Executive Order 2015-4) (see MD SS WL-4036).	(See above.)
No similar action.	*MD SS WL-4035: The BLM will update its Greater Sage-Grouse habitat management areas, including biologically significant units (BSUs), in conjunction with the State of Wyoming's core areas, upon issuance of any Wyoming Governor's Executive Order revising or amending the core area boundaries and upon completion of appropriate NEPA analysis and process. The BLM will complete the appropriate NEPA documentation (including appropriate public comment) prior to adopting any revised core area boundaries (e.g., maintenance action or plan amendment, environmental assessment, etc.).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
No similar action.	*MD SS WL-4036: Specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: Adopt the State of Wyoming's Greater Sage-Grouse Compensatory Mitigation Framework to the extent consistent with federal law, regulations, and policy. In all Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, when authorizing third-party actions in designated Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, the BLM will seek to achieve the planning-level Greater Sage-Grouse management goals and objectives through implementation of mitigation and management actions, consistent with valid existing rights and applicable law. Under this Plan Amendment, management would be consistent with the Greater Sage-Grouse goals and objectives,	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
(See above.)	and in conformance with BLM Manual 6840, Special Status Species Management. In accordance with BLM Manual 6840, the BLM will undertake planning decisions, actions and authorizations “to minimize or eliminate threats affecting the status of [Greater Sage-Grouse] or to improve the condition of [Greater Sage-Grouse] habitat” across the planning area. Accordingly, before authorizing third-party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation, the BLM will complete the following steps, in alignment with the Governor of Wyoming’s Executive Order 2015-4 (July 29, 2015): 1. Work jointly with the WGFD to evaluate projects and recommend mitigation in the form of avoidance and minimization. 2. The WGFD will determine if the State requires or recommends any additional mitigation – including compensatory mitigation – under State regulations, policies, or programs related to the conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse. 3. Incorporate state required or recommended mitigation into the BLM’s NEPA decision-making process, if the WGFD determines that compensatory mitigation is required to address impacts to GRSG habitat as a part of State policy or authorization, or if a proponent voluntarily offers mitigation. 4. Analyze whether the compensatory mitigation (deferring to the appropriate State authority to quantify habitat offsets, durability, and other aspects used to determine the recommended compensatory mitigation action): • achieves measurable outcomes for Greater Sage-Grouse habitat function on a landscape scale as determined by WGFD that are at least equal to the lost or degraded values in accordance with the Governor of Wyoming’s Executive Order 2015-4. • provides benefits that are in place for at least the duration of the impacts • accounts for a level of risk that the mitigation action may fail or not persist for the full duration of the impact 5. Ensure mitigation outcomes are consistent with the State of Wyoming’s mitigation strategy and principles outlined in 2019	(See above.)

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
(See above.)	Wyoming GrSG ARMPA Appendix C, The Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management Strategy. The BLM has determined that compensatory mitigation must be voluntary unless required by other applicable law and in recognition that State authorities may also require compensatory mitigation (IM 2019-018, <i>Compensatory Mitigation</i>, December 6, 2018). Therefore, consistent with valid existing rights and applicable law, when authorizing third-party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation, the BLM will consider voluntary compensatory mitigation actions only as a component of compliance with a State mitigation plan, program, or authority, or when offered voluntarily by a project proponent. Project-specific analysis will be necessary to determine how a compensatory mitigation proposal addresses impacts from a proposed action. The BLM will cooperate with the State to determine appropriate project design and alignment with State policies and requirements, including those regarding compensatory mitigation. When the BLM is considering compensatory mitigation as a component of the project proponent's submission or based on a mitigation requirement from the State, the BLM's NEPA analysis would evaluate the need to avoid or minimize impacts of the proposed project and achieve the goals and objectives of this RMPA. The BLM will defer to the appropriate State authority to quantify habitat offsets, durability, and other aspects used to determine the recommended compensatory mitigation action.	(See above.)
MO PR:2.1: Achieve and maintain Standards for Healthy Rangelands and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management for the Public Lands Administered by the BLM in the State of Wyoming (Appendix I (p. 419)).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MO PR:2.3: Rehabilitate all surface-disturbing activities consistent with applicable laws, regulations, and policies.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Soil-1002: Authorized surface-disturbing activities will include plans for reclamation; site-specific reclamation actions should reflect the complexity of the project, environmental concerns, and the reclamation potential of the site.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MG PR:3: Watershed, surface water, and groundwater resources are consistent with applicable state and federal standards and regulations.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO PR:3.1: BLM actions maintain or improve watershed, wetland, and riparian functions to support desired surface-flow regimes and water quality.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Water-1007: Design and manage land use and surface-disturbing activities to reduce channel and bank erosion and the associated loss of riparian habitats.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Water-1013: Allow surface disturbance within 500 feet of springs, non-CBNG reservoirs, water wells, or perennial streams with an approved site-specific plan that ensures construction, stabilization and reclamation methods are meeting water and other resource objectives including, but not limited to soil, slope, and vegetation, and wildlife habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Water-1016: Evaluate unneeded reservoirs for removal and reclamation.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO MR:1.1: Provide opportunities for the exploration and development of locatable minerals, as well as mill and tunnel site operations, while avoiding or mitigating the effects of these activities on other resource values so that unnecessary or undue degradation is prevented.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MO MR:2.1: Maintain coal leasing and exploration, while minimizing impacts to other resource values.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD Coal-2001: Coal planning was completed as part of the April 2001 BFO RMP update. At that time the four coal planning screens (i.e., coal development potential, unsuitability, multiple use and surface owner consultation) were applied to certain federal coal lands within the BFO planning area. The result of this planning effort was a decision identifying lands acceptable for further coal leasing consideration. The coal management decisions made in the BFO RMP update will be carried forward in this Approved RMP. Federal coal lands identified acceptable for further coal leasing consideration are available for Lease By Applications, lease modifications, emergency leases, and exchanges. Prior to offering a coal tract for sale, the need to reapply the unsuitability criteria will be reviewed, a tract specific NEPA analysis will be completed, and there will be opportunity for public comment. At the time an application for a new coal lease or lease modification is submitted to the BLM, the BLM will determine whether the lease application area is "unsuitable" for all or certain coal mining methods pursuant to 43 CFR 3461.5. Priority habitat (core population areas and core population connectivity corridors) is essential habitat for maintaining Greater Sage-Grouse for purposes of the suitability criteria set forth at 43 CFR 3461.5(o)(1).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MO MR:3.4: Priority will be given to leasing and development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, outside of Greater Sage-Grouse habitat. When analyzing leasing and authorizing development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, in priority habitat (core population areas and core population connectivity corridors) and general habitat, and subject to applicable stipulations for the conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse, priority will be given to development in non-habitat areas first and then in the least suitable habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse. The implementation of these priorities will be subject to valid existing rights and any applicable law or regulation, including, but not limited to, 30 U.S.C. 226(p) and 43 CFR 3162.3-1(h). Where a proposed fluid mineral development project on an existing lease could adversely affect Greater Sage-Grouse populations or habitat, the BLM will work with the lessees, operators, or other project proponents to avoid, reduce and mitigate adverse impacts to the extent compatible with lessees' rights to drill and produce fluid mineral resources. The BLM will work with the lessee, operator, or project proponent in developing an APD for the lease to avoid and minimize impacts to Greater Sage-Grouse or its habitat and will ensure that the best information about the Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat informs and helps to guide development of such federal leases.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
**MD O&G-2001: Continue to require lessees to conduct operations in a manner that minimizes adverse impacts to other resources and other land uses and users. Where the federal government owns the mineral estate in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat and the surface is in non-federal ownership, apply to BLM authorizations regulating the federal lessee the same stipulations, COAs, and/or conservation measures and RDFs applied if the mineral estate is developed on BLM-administered surface lands in that management area, to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities, and in coordination with the landowner. Where the federal government owns the surface and the mineral estate is in non-federal ownership in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, apply appropriate surface use COAs, stipulations, and mineral RDFs through ROW grants or other surface management instruments, to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities, in coordination with the mineral estate owner/lessee.	Continue to require lessees to conduct operations in a manner that minimizes adverse impacts to other resources and other land uses and users. Where the federal government owns the mineral estate in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat and the surface is in non-federal ownership, apply to BLM authorizations regulating the federal lessee the same stipulations, COAs, and/or conservation measures and RDFs applied if the mineral estate is developed on BLM-administered surface lands in that management area, to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities, and in coordination with the landowner. Where the federal government owns the surface and the mineral estate is in non-federal ownership in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, apply appropriate surface use COAs, stipulations, and mineral RDFs through ROW grants or other surface management instruments, to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities, in coordination with the mineral estate owner/lessee (see also MD SS WL-4024 and MD SS WL-4036).	Potential change under Alternative 3.
**MD O&G-2006: Areas that are open to oil and gas leasing are open to geophysical exploration subject to appropriate mitigation developed through use of the mitigation guidelines described in Appendix F (p. 397). Areas closed to oil and gas leasing are closed to geophysical exploration. Geophysical exploration is subject to motorized travel limitations and restrictions on surface-disturbing and disruptive activities. Geophysical exploration projects that are designed to minimize habitat fragmentation within PHMA would be allowed, except where prohibited or restricted by LUP decisions, and in conformance with timing and distances Management Decisions (see SS WL-4024).	Areas that are open to oil and gas leasing are open to geophysical exploration subject to appropriate mitigation developed through use of the mitigation guidelines described in Appendix F (p. 397). Areas closed to oil and gas leasing are closed to geophysical exploration. Geophysical exploration is subject to motorized travel limitations and restrictions on surface-disturbing and disruptive activities. Geophysical exploration projects that are designed to minimize habitat fragmentation within PHMA would be allowed, except where prohibited or restricted by LUP decisions, and in conformance with timing and distances Management Decisions (see also MD SS WL-4024 and MD SS WL-4036).	No change proposed.
MG MR:4: Manage leasable minerals other than oil, gas, coal, and geothermal energy based on demand, while avoiding or mitigating impacts to other resource values.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MO MR:4.1: Make opportunities available for exploration and development of leasable minerals other than oil, gas, coal, and geothermal energy, while avoiding or mitigating impacts of these activities on other resource values.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD OL-2001: All lands in the planning area are available to exploration and development of other leasable minerals unless closed to mineral leasing. All non-energy leasable mineral activities would be considered in PHMA, provided that the activities can be completed in compliance with all Greater Sage-Grouse occupancy, timing, density and disturbance restrictions (see SS WL-4024).	All lands in the planning area are available to exploration and development of other leasable minerals unless closed to mineral leasing. All non-energy leasable mineral activities would be considered in PHMA, provided that the activities can be completed in compliance with all Greater Sage-Grouse occupancy, timing, density and disturbance restrictions (see also MD SS WL-4024 and MD SS WL-4036).	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
MO MR:5.1: Provide opportunities for exploration and development of salable minerals while avoiding or mitigating effects to other resource values.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MG FM:1: Life, property, and resource values are protected. The protection of human life is the single, overriding priority. Setting priorities among protecting human communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources will be done based on the values to be protected, human health and safety, and the costs of protection.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO FM:1.1: Respond to unplanned wildfires based on: (1) ecological, (2) social, and (3) legal consequences while supporting other resource values.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO FM:1.5: Implement appropriate emergency stabilization and rehabilitation actions following wildland fire.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MG FM:2: Plant community and hazardous fuel objectives are achieved.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO FM:2.1: Improve fire regime condition class and maintain or improve conditions of fire-adapted landscapes by managing fire, planned and unplanned, to accomplish beneficial resource objectives.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Fire-3001: A Fire Management Plan for the Wyoming High Plains District will be maintained that more specifically outlines management response and implementation actions for wildland fire response of public lands.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD Fire-3002: A resource advisor appropriate to the potentially affected resource will be consulted, or assigned, to all wildland fires that involve or threaten BLM-administered lands.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Fire-3006: Implement the BLM Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation standards located in the DOI Interagency Burned Area Emergency Response Guidebook (DOI 2004) and BLM Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook (BLM 2007a) as needed. Appendix P (p. 625) provides additional information regarding the BLM's approach to emergency stabilization and rehabilitation.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Fire-3007: Use the District Fire Management Plan to implement the objectives of this RMP; to address fire management on a landscape scale, to maintain or improve conditions in fire-adapted landscapes, and to accomplish resource management objectives.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD Fire-3008: Ensure all prescribed burning activities comply with Wyoming DEQ air quality standards and smoke management rules. For fuels management, the BLM would consider multiple tools for fuels reduction and would analyze in NEPA compliance documentation before electing to implement prescribed fire in PHMAs. If prescribed fire is used in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan will address: • why alternative techniques were not selected as a viable options; • how Greater Sage-Grouse goals and objectives would be met by its use; • how the Conservation Objectives Team Report objectives would be addressed and met; • a risk assessment to address how potential threats to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat would be minimized. Prescribed fire as a vegetation or fuels treatment shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Prescribed fire could be used to meet specific fuels objectives that would protect Greater Sage-Grouse habitat (e.g., creation of fuel breaks that would disrupt the fuel continuity across the landscape in stands where annual invasive grasses are a minor component in the understory, burning slash piles from conifer reduction treatments, used as a component with other treatment methods to combat annual grasses and restore native plant communities). Prescribed fire in known Greater Sage-Grouse winter range shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Any prescribed fire in winter habitat would need to be designed to strategically reduce wildfire risk around and/or in the winter range and designed to protect winter range habitat quality.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Fire-3011: Response to wildfire varies from full protection in areas where fire is undesirable to monitoring fire behavior in areas where fire can be managed to accomplish other resource objectives. The entire planning area is available to manage wildfire for multiple objectives.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD Fire-3012: Prohibit heavy equipment use within the following areas, except when human safety is at risk or if the expected fire effects would cause more resource damage than the use of heavy equipment: • Areas of cultural resource sensitivity • Riparian/wetland habitats • Identified Greater Sage-Grouse important habitats: Core Population Areas, nesting, brood-rearing, Core Population Connectivity Corridors, or winter habitat • Areas of highly erosive soils • Lands with wilderness characteristics Limit heavy equipment usage to existing roads and trails, or immediately adjacent to them, in areas not identified as full protection.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Fire-3013: Use protection strategies in the following areas: • WUI • Wildland Industrial Interface • Developed recreation • Developed electronic/communication sites of all types • Where sensitive or high value resources would be adversely affected by fire (i.e., Greater Sage-Grouse Core Population Area and Connectivity Corridor)	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD Fire-3014: Evaluate all fires and rehabilitate fire-damaged lands as needed to meet resource objectives. Repair suppression damages as necessary. Post ES&R and BAER management would be designed to ensure long-term persistence of seeded or pre-burn native plants. This may require temporary or long-term changes in livestock grazing, wild horse, and travel management, etc., to achieve and maintain the desired condition of ES&R and BAER projects to benefit Greater Sage-Grouse (Eiswerth and Shonkwiler 2006). The BLM could bring in BAR and BAER teams who would work collaboratively with partners at the federal, state, and local level to rehabilitate and restore Greater Sage-Grouse habitats in a manner consistent with the core habitat population area strategy for conservation. DDCT reviews would be conducted in coordination with the WGFD Habitat Protection Program located in Cheyenne, Wyoming at the WGFD headquarters. Areas within PHMAs would be high priority for restoration of Greater Sage-Grouse habitat beyond immediate response.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Fire-3015: Use wildland fire and other vegetation treatments to meet desired management objectives.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MG BR:I: Vegetation resources sustained in desired ecological conditions.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:I.1: Manage communities for a diversity of native species, habitats, seral stages, and distribution.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:I.2: Manage for healthy vegetation communities to ensure their capability to provide sufficient plant composition, cover, and litter accumulation to protect soils from wind and water erosion and enhance nutrient cycling and productivity.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:I.3: Reclaim areas affected by surface-disturbing activities to promote healthy functioning native plant communities.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:I.4: Manage habitat to facilitate the conservation, recovery, and maintenance of populations of native, desirable non-native, and special status plant species consistent with appropriate local, state, and federal conservation requirements and management plans.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:I.5: Manage for healthy native plant communities by reducing and managing invasive, non-native noxious species.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD Forest-4006: Actively manage woodlands to prevent expansion into other communities consistent with multiple resource values, on a project-specific basis.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MG BR:3: A diverse landscape of native grasslands and shrublands sustained in desired ecological conditions.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:3.I: Manage for a full range of sagebrush, shrub, and grassland communities with diverse native species and subspecies, composition, canopies, densities, and age classes across the landscape.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD GS-4001: Manage vegetative communities in accordance with Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management for the Public Lands Administered by the BLM in the State of Wyoming.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD GS-4003: Use an integrated management approach (e.g., mechanical, chemical, biological treatments, prescribed fire, and grazing management techniques) to maintain, restore, and enhance the health and diversity of plant communities to achieve resource or multi-resource objectives.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD GS-4005: Manage grasslands and shrublands to protect, preserve, or enhance plant communities.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD GS-4006: Manage the siting of facilities and related infrastructure (utility corridors, roads) to reduce impacts to vegetation resources.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD GS-4007: Manage the planning and development of travel routes, recreational uses, mineral exploration and development sites, and ROW to reduce impacts to the vegetation resource.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD GS-4008: Develop a contingency plan addressing catastrophic natural events such as drought, wildfires, and large-scale pest infestations, incorporating strategies that best protect vegetation resources.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD GS-4009: Work with landowners on split estate lands to reestablish disturbed sites to healthy plant communities in accordance with the ecological site potential	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MG BR:4: Health and functional capabilities in riparian/wetland systems.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:4.I: Manage lotic and lentic wetland/riparian systems at a minimum to achieve and/or maintain PFC.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MO BR:4.2: Improve riparian systems and wetlands in systems operating at less than PFC.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:4.3: Manage contributing watersheds to sustain riparian health and water quality.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:4.4: Manage and enhance riparian and wetland systems for plant, insect, fish and wildlife species that depend on these systems for their health and well being.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:4.5: CBNG created riparian and wetland systems will be evaluated, retained, or reclaimed to support vegetation and other resource values.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Riparian-4002: Prioritize, and develop activity and implementation plans to manage riparian systems to be at or above, or continue to be improving toward, PFC while achieving the Standards for Healthy Rangelands and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management for the Public Lands Administered by the BLM in the State of Wyoming.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Riparian-4003: Manage riparian and wetland systems to enhance forage conditions and improve water quality. Manage all riparian systems with sensitive species concerns to a succession stage appropriate for that system, including vertical as well as horizontal vegetative structure and composition.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Riparian-4004: Expand and enhance riparian/wetland systems and habitat in cooperation with stakeholders.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Riparian-4005: Prevent degradation, loss, or destruction of riparian/wetland habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Riparian-4008: Allow surface-disturbing activities within 500 feet of riparian/wetlands systems with an approved site-specific plan that ensures construction, stabilization, and reclamation methods are meeting resource objectives, including, but not limited to soil, vegetation and wildlife habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Riparian-4010: Identify and manage systems capable of achieving DFC.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Riparian-4011: Restore vegetation in CBNG supported wetland and riparian systems on BLM surface and/or lease in accordance with the ecological site potential.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MG BR:5: Healthy native communities with manageable levels of pathogens, undesirable, invasive, non-native, or noxious species.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MO BR:5.1: Develop and maintain baseline information regarding the extent, location, and potential impact(s) of pest species. From this baseline information develop and implement an Integrated Pest Management Plan. Integrated management would be used to control, suppress, and eradicate, where possible, noxious and invasive species per BLM Handbook H-1740-2. Manage noxious or invasive species treatments to maintain or improve Greater Sage-Grouse habitat. Apply Required Design Features as Conditions of Approval, such as those in Appendix C (p. 285). Encourage the use of voluntary BMPs.	Develop and maintain baseline information regarding the extent, location, and potential impact(s) of pest species. From this baseline information develop and implement an Integrated Pest Management Plan. Integrated management would be used to control, suppress, and eradicate, where possible, noxious and invasive species per BLM Handbook H-1740-2. Manage noxious or invasive species treatments to maintain or improve Greater Sage-Grouse habitat. Apply Required Design Features as Conditions of Approval, such as those in the 2019 Wyoming GrSG ARPMA Appendix B. Encourage the use of voluntary BMPs.	No change proposed.
MO BR5.2: Facilitate support for an integrated approach for the detection, management, or eradication of new and minor infestations.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:5.3: Develop, implement, and maintain a management program for annual bromes and other invasive or undesirable species not listed as noxious, utilizing the best available science and BMPs.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:5.4: Coordinate with APHIS to facilitate pest and predator management.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Pest-4002: Manage designated pests on public surface lands using an Integrated Pest Management Approach consistent with DOI Manual 517 (BLM 2007b).	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Pest-4003: Limit surface disturbance to the minimum needed for safe project completion to limit the spread of noxious weeds.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Pest-4004: Use certified noxious weed seed-free products on all BLM-administered projects and lands.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Pest-4005: Implement and maintain cooperative integrated pest management programs with county weed and pest districts, state agencies, private industry, grazing lessees, and other stakeholders in conjunction with BLM weed and pest control work on public lands adjoining deeded and state lands.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Pest-4006: Require surface or vegetation disturbance areas, including areas formerly receiving or holding water, be treated for invasive species and revegetated.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD Pest-4009: Treat those plants on the State of Wyoming Designated list, the appropriate county lists, and other species of concern as determined by BLM resource specialists. Note: Priority treatments are those areas where infestations on private land are threatening public lands. Treat areas that contain annual bromes and/or other invasive species to minimize competition and favor establishment of desired species	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Pest-4010: Designate and prioritize areas for the treatment of annual brome species.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MG BR:6: Distribution and abundance of all native and desirable non-native species are optimized.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:6.1: BLM actions prevent and/or reduce impacts to desirable species.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:6.2: In coordination with cooperating agencies, develop and implement an achievable Wildlife Monitoring and Protection Plan.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:6.3: Maintain, restore, or improve the continuity and productivity of fish and wildlife habitats to support WGFD population objectives.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:6.4: Develop and implement an adaptive conservation and management strategy.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MG BR:7: Sufficient functional habitat for native and desirable non-native species.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:7.1: Evaluate, update, and revise as necessary existing Wildlife Habitat Management Plans.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:7.2: Develop Wildlife Habitat Management Plans for areas with important habitats.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:7.3: Manage habitat consistent with local, state, and federal management plans, as applicable.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:7.4: Continue to gather habitat and population data while concurrently monitoring human and natural disturbance dynamics to improve habitat management.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:7.5: Provide security habitat, sufficient in amount and distribution, to support WGFD population objectives for fish and wildlife to escape from disruptive activities.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:7.6: Maintain and provide functioning sagebrush habitat to sustain sagebrush obligates and other sagebrush dependent species.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MG BR:8: Fish and wildlife are able to move between areas of functionally intact habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:8.1: Develop Travel Management Plans for areas important for fish and wildlife while supporting other resource values.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:8.2: Develop a ROW Management Plan for utility corridors to manage impacts to areas of habitat important to fish and wildlife consistent with other resource values.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:8.3: Land acquisitions should support desirable fish and wildlife populations or habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:8.4: Restore functionality to areas of degraded habitat important to fish and wildlife populations consistent with other resource values.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Fish-4008: Maintain or enhance streams and riparian areas associated with Class I and II streams (WGFD classifications), Powder River, Tongue River, and other appropriate areas for desired fisheries potential.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Fish-4012: Allow surface-disturbing activities within 0.25 mile of naturally occurring water bodies containing native and desirable non-native fish species where fish resource objectives can be met.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD WL-4001: Develop appropriate mitigation for surface-disturbing and disruptive activities associated with wildlife habitat management through use of the mitigation guidelines described in Appendix F (p. 397).	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD WL-4002: Maintain or improve important wildlife habitats through vegetative manipulations, habitat improvement projects, livestock grazing strategies and the application of The Wyoming Guidelines for Managing Sagebrush Communities with Emphasis on Fire Management (Wyoming Interagency Vegetation Committee 2002) and Appendix F (p. 397), WGFD Strategic Habitat Plan (WGFD 2001), State Wildlife Action Plan (WGFD 2010), and similar guidance updated over time.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD WL-4003: Continue to use existing Habitat Management Plans and update as necessary to include management objectives and prescriptions for wildlife: South Big Horns Habitat Management Plan (BLM 1986b), including a portion or all of the Gardner Mountain and North Fork WSAs; Wetlands Habitat Management Plan (BLM 1986a); and Middle Fork Powder River Habitat Management Plan (BLM 1980).	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD WL-4005: Consult with the WGFD and USFWS, in accordance with MOUs, when applying mitigation for wildlife and before waiving, allowing exceptions to, or modifying wildlife-related land use restrictions and mitigation.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD WL-4006: Provide, to the extent possible, suitable habitat and forage to support wildlife population objectives as defined by WGFD. BLM will cooperatively consider proposals by the WGFD to change population objective levels based on habitat capability and availability.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD WL-4007: Manage access to protect crucial habitats in cooperation with WGFD and other stakeholders.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD WL-4008: Utilize current research, management and conservation plans, and similar related documents to guide wildlife habitat management.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD WL-4009: Construct new fences to avoid adverse impacts to wildlife and in accordance with BLM Fencing Handbook 1741-I (BLM 1989) and WO Instruction Memorandum 2010-022: Managing Structures for the Safety of Sage-grouse, Sharp-tailed grouse, and Lesser prairie chicken (BLM 2009b).	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD WL-4012: Inventory, record, and report existing type, condition, and location of BLM fences. Prioritize fence projects and annually implement modifications in accordance with appropriate wildlife needs and the BLM Fencing Handbook 1741-I.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD WL-4013: Allow surface-disturbing and disruptive activities to occur throughout the entire life of projects during seasons important for wildlife when wildlife resource objectives can be met	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD WL-4014: Powerlines (distribution and transmission) will be designed to minimize wildlife related impacts and constructed to the latest APLIC guidance. Prohibit above ground distribution powerlines unless identified in an approved distribution plan.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Cultural-5007: Prohibit surface disturbance within the following sites: • Pumpkin Buttes • Cantonment Reno • Dull Knife Battle • Crazy Woman Battle • Contributing and Unevaluated Segments of the Bozeman Trail • All Rock Art Sites • All Rock Shelter Sites • All Native American Burials Allow surface disturbance and infrastructure within 3.0 miles of the following sites where development is either not visible, or will result in a weak contrast to the setting: • Pumpkin Buttes • Cantonment Reno • Dull Knife Battle • Crazy Woman Battle • Contributing and Unevaluated Segments of the Bozeman Trail • All Rock Art Sites • All Native American Burials	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Paleo-5001: Retain public lands with significant paleontological values.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Paleo-5006: Avoid areas containing paleontological resources of high quality or importance when developing locatable minerals.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Paleo-5007: Apply an NSO stipulation to mineral leases in areas containing paleontological resources of high quality or importance.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Paleo-5008: Avoid areas containing paleontological resources of high quality or importance when developing salable minerals.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD VRM-5002: Incorporate BMPs for visual resources into project planning for federal actions.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MG LR:2: Manage land tenure adjustments and land use authorizations to meet the needs of the customers while protecting other resource values.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MO LR:2.1: Develop and maintain a land-ownership pattern that improves access for public use, and improves management and protection of BLM-administered lands by: 1. Acquiring legal easements to BLM-administered lands for recreational opportunities and administrative use. 2. Responding to requests for land authorizations for access needs. 3. Responding to requests for land transfers. 4. Giving priority to land exchanges and/or sales on custodial grazing allotments while supporting other resource values.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO LR:2.3: Effects of infrastructure projects, including siting, will be minimized using the best available science, updated as monitoring information on current infrastructure projects becomes available.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD L&R-6002: Consider land use authorizations (permits, leases, etc.) on a project-specific basis consistent with other resource objectives.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD L&R-6003: Consider withdrawals for surface and/or minerals on a project-specific basis.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD L&R-6011: Acquire private or state land or interest in land from willing sellers consistent with other resource objectives, on a project-specific basis.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
**MD L&R-6012: Acquire and dispose of land based on all resource values, including but not limited to agricultural potential and water. Do not classify, open, or make available any BLM-administered public lands within the planning area for agricultural leasing or agricultural entry under either Desert Land Entry or Indian Allotment for one or more of the following reasons: rugged topography, presence of sensitive resources, lack of water or access, small parcel size, and/or unsuitable soils. Lands classified as PHMA and GHMA for Greater Sage-Grouse will be retained in federal management unless: (1) the agency can demonstrate that disposal of the lands, including land exchanges, will provide a net conservation gain to the Greater Sage-Grouse or (2) the agency can demonstrate that the disposal, including land exchanges, of the lands will have no direct or indirect adverse impact on conservation of the Greater Sage-Grouse. Exceptions would be considered where there is mixed ownership and land exchanges would allow for additional or more contiguous federal ownership patterns within PHMA. For PHMA with minority federal ownership, an additional, effective mitigation agreement would be included for any disposal of federal land. As a final preservation measure, consideration should be given to pursuing a permanent conservation easement. For lands in GHMA that are identified for disposal, the BLM will only dispose of such lands consistent with the goals and objectives of this plan, including, but not limited to, the land use plan goal to conserve, recover, and enhance Greater Sage-Grouse habitat on a landscape scale.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD L&R-6014: Prioritize acquiring land or interests in lands in areas adjacent to large blocks of BLM-administered land or other lands having significant resource or other values before other areas.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MG LR:4: Primary infrastructure corridors and subsidiary routes consistent with other resource values.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO LR:4.I: Manage public lands to meet the needs of ROW customers while supporting other resource values.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MO LR:4.3: Identify infrastructure corridors consistent with other resource values.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO LR:4.4: Make opportunities available for exploration and development of CO ₂ sequestration research and activities, while avoiding or mitigating impacts of these activities on other resource values.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO LR:4.5: Effects of infrastructure projects, including siting, will be minimized using the best available science, updated as monitoring information on current infrastructure projects becomes available.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD ROW-6001: Designate corridors for major ROW to minimize surface disturbance and impacts to other resources.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD ROW-6004: The preferred location for new ROW will be in or adjacent to existing disturbed areas associated with existing ROW, constructed roads, or highways.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD ROW-6005: Maintain a transportation management system in cooperation with appropriate state and local agencies to meet public and resource management needs.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD ROW-6006: Make lands available for ROW in accordance with management identified within the Approved RMP to conserve other resources. This results in: • 79,777 acres excluded from ROW. • 321,149 acres identified for ROW avoidance. PHMA would be managed as ROW avoidance areas for new ROW or SUA permits. Within PHMA where new ROWs/SUAs are necessary, new ROWs/SUAs would be located within designated RMP corridors or adjacent to existing ROWs/SUAs where technically feasible. Subject to valid existing rights including non-federal land inholdings, required new ROWs/SUAs would be located adjacent to existing ROWs/SUAs or where it best minimizes Greater Sage-Grouse impacts. Greater Sage-Grouse priority habitat (Core Population Areas and Core Population Connectivity Corridors) are designated as avoidance areas for ROWs. • 381,176 acres are open for ROW development.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD ROW-6009: Designate the following corridors for major ROW transportation and utility use, in cooperation with the State of Wyoming: • Echeta Road • Sheridan to Gillette, largely following US 14/16 • Highway 59 north of Gillette • Interstate 25 • Interstate 90, Gillette to Montana State Line • Powder River • Powder River Breaks (Buffalo to Gillette) Corridor use is required. No above ground lines will be authorized in the Powder River or Powder River Breaks corridors. Corridor requirements within Greater Sage-Grouse habitat are identified in SS WL-4022.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD ROW-6010: Authorize and place above ground facilities (i.e., compressors, electric distribution powerlines) within ROW and other disturbance areas when resource objectives can be met.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD ROW-6012: Evaluate CO2 sequestration proposals where in accordance with management identified within the Approved RMP.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MG LR:5: A safe transportation network that supports other resource values.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO LR:5.1: Utilize a comprehensive travel management approach to sustain and enhance access, recreational experiences, and support other resource values.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO LR:5.3: Designate all BLM-administered lands as Open, Limited, or Closed to OHV use, in consideration of other resource values.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO LR:5.4: Provide for acceptable modes of legal public access that supports other resources, reduces conflicts, and provides for diverse recreation opportunities.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Trans-6002: Evaluate roads constructed under other initiatives (e.g., oil and gas exploration) for inclusion in the BLM transportation system. Roads that are no longer needed for their original purposes are assessed for addition to the BLM transportation system prior to reclamation.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD Trans-6004: Design, construct, and maintain roads or trails based on the specific objectives for that trail or road in consideration of other resources. Design, construct, and maintain roads to minimize surface disturbance, changes to surface water runoff, and erosion.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Trans-6006: Base road or trail closures and abandonments on resource protection, demand for new roads, and accommodation of authorized uses.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Trans-6007: Maintain transportation system roads under BLM jurisdiction in accordance with assigned maintenance levels and in consideration of other resource values. Maintain administrative roads on an as needed basis, dependent on time, funding, and access priorities.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Trans-6008: Within 5 years of the ROD, inventory all routes on public land and develop a travel management plan to classify and designate routes for continued use or decommissioning and reclamation. Include maintenance standards for routes to be retained for public use, as well as specific measures to accomplish road closure in the travel management plan. Inventory, designate, number, and sign all routes as appropriate. Posted signs will include allowed uses and activities. Restrictions to existing roads and trails remains in effect until travel management planning is completed and designated routes are identified. Appendix S (p. 667) provides additional information regarding the travel management planning process.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD Trans-6013: Allow temporary closures to motorized vehicle use in areas that pose public health and safety risks, and/or where resource damage is imminent. In Greater Sage-Grouse priority habitat (Core Population Areas and Core Population Connectivity Corridors) and general habitat, temporary closures will be considered in accordance with 43 CFR subpart 8364 (Closures and Restrictions); 43 CFR subpart 8351 (Designated National Area); 43 CFR subpart 6302 (Use of Wilderness Areas, Prohibited Acts, and Penalties); 43 CFR subpart 8341 (Conditions of Use). Temporary closure or restriction orders under these authorities are enacted at the discretion of the authorized officer to resolve management conflicts and protect persons, property, and public lands and resources. Where an authorized officer determines that OHVs are causing or will cause considerable adverse effects upon soil, vegetation, wildlife, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, historical resources, threatened or endangered species, wilderness suitability, other authorized uses, or other resources, the affected areas shall be immediately closed to the type(s) of vehicle causing the adverse effect until the adverse effects are eliminated and measures implemented to prevent recurrence (43 CFR 8341.2). A closure or restriction order should be considered only after other management strategies and alternatives have been explored. The duration of temporary closure or restriction orders should be limited to 24 months or less; however, certain situations may require longer closures and/or iterative temporary closures. This may include closure of routes or areas.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Trans-6014: Limit OHV use to designated routes unless compelling reasons exist to classify parcels as Open or Closed, and is consistent with other resource values. Until individual routes are designated, areas subject to route designation will be classified as Limited to existing routes. Once route designation is completed, areas will no longer be classified as Limited to existing routes.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD Trans-6019: Limit motorized vehicle use to designated routes within habitat of special status species consistent with travel management designations for that area. Routes will be designated to avoid occupied habitat during travel management planning.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Trans-6020: Evaluate existing routes in the vicinity of any new system roads for closure and reclamation consistent with other resource values.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO LR:7.2: Manage recreation to protect resources, maintain public health and safety, and to provide a diverse array of benefits to the public.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MG LR:8: Recreation facilities balance public demand with other resource values.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO LR:8.1: Design and maintain recreation sites to meet acceptable health and safety standards while supporting other resource values.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Rec-6003: Open the planning area to dispersed recreation where consistent with other resource values.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Rec-6010: Avoid riparian habitat or develop and manage recreational sites, recreation facilities, and recreational access in a manner that minimizes impacts to riparian habitats.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Rec-6011: Prohibit dispersed camping and commercial camps within 200 feet of perennial surface water.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
**MD Rec-6015: Allow additional recreation facilities in areas where they are supported by recreational use and are consistent with other resource values. Construction of recreation facilities within Greater Sage-Grouse PHMA (Core Population Areas and Core Population Connectivity Corridors) must conform with the avoidance and minimization measures of this plan. If it is determined that these conservation measures are inadequate for the conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse, the BLM will require and ensure compensatory mitigation that provides a net conservation gain to the species.	Allow additional recreation facilities in areas where they are supported by recreational use and are consistent with other resource values. Construction of recreation facilities within Greater Sage-Grouse PHMA (Core Population Areas and Core Population Connectivity Corridors) must conform to the avoidance and minimization measures of this plan. If it is determined that these conservation measures are inadequate for the conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse, the BLM will consider mitigation consistent with the applicable State Management Strategy (currently Governor's Executive Order 2015-4) (see also MD SS WL-4036).	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD Rec-6018: Designate the following areas as SRMAs and delineate discrete recreation management zone boundaries: • Burnt Hollow (17,280 acres) • Dry Creek Petrified Tree (2,567 acres) • Hole-in-the-Wall (11,952 acres) • Middle Fork Powder River (10,083 acres) • Mosier Gulch (1,026 acres) • Welch Ranch (1,748 acres) • Weston Hills (9,504 acres) Strategically emphasize a variety of recreation opportunities along with the protection of natural and cultural resources. R&VS management will be recognized as the predominant land use focus in SRMAs. Manage SRMAs under site-specific management plans. Site-specific management plans will be consistent with and implement the provisions specified for SRMAs in Appendix T (p. 679).	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Rec-6019: Do not lease minerals within the boundary of the following SRMAs: • Burnt Hollow (17,280 acres) • Dry Creek Petrified Tree (2,567 acres) • Hole-in-the-Wall (11,952 acres) • Middle Fork Powder River (10,083 acres) • Mosier Gulch (1,026 acres) • Welch Ranch (1,748 acres) Lease fluid minerals with a CSU stipulation to be consistent with SRMA management in the following SRMA: • Weston Hills (9,504 acres)	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Rec-6021: Allow surface disturbance within designated SRMAs for administrative use only, where consistent with other resource values.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Rec-6022: Recommend withdrawals from mineral entry under the mining laws in designated SRMAs.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD Rec-6023: Allow salable mineral development within designated SRMAs for administrative use only.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MG LR:11: Public rangelands provide for a sustainable level of livestock grazing consistent with other resource values and sustained yield.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MO LR:11.2: Manage forage to maintain or improve ecological states and achieve and/or maintain Standards for Healthy Rangelands and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management for the Public Lands Administered by the BLM in the State of Wyoming.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MO LR:11.3: Monitor and evaluate rangeland health and condition in coordination with cooperators, and lessees to determine if, and what additional management is needed to achieve desired ecological state.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD Grazing-6001: Develop and implement appropriate livestock grazing management actions to achieve the Standards for Healthy Rangelands and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management for the Public Lands Administered by the BLM in the State of Wyoming, to provide watershed protection, to improve forage for livestock, forage and habitat for wildlife, and enhance rangeland health.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD Grazing-6004: Continue implementation of existing AMPs. Develop and implement new AMPs with grazing lessees and other stakeholders to achieve desired resource goals and objectives.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD Grazing-6005: Manage livestock grazing to sustain riparian, wetland, mountain mahogany, specials status species or other special habitats.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD Grazing-6009: Implement strategies that best protect rangeland resources during periods of drought. Cooperate with stakeholders for voluntary adjustments in livestock use and/or livestock management.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD Grazing-6015: Develop range improvements in accordance with resource needs and livestock management.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD Grazing-6016: Conduct baseline inventories. Develop, implement, and monitor AMPs. Base AMP goals/objectives in Category I and M allotments on resource protection and watershed health.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
*MD Grazing- 6017: Allow livestock grazing on all public lands in the planning area except where an evaluation has determined it to be incompatible with other resource uses or values (campgrounds, entrances of caves, sites of cultural significance). - The BLM will prioritize (1) the review of grazing permits/leases, in particular to determine if modification is necessary prior to renewal, and (2) the processing of grazing permits/leases in Greater Sage-Grouse priority habitat (Core Population Areas and Core Population Connectivity Corridors) followed by general habitat. In setting workload priorities, precedence will be given to existing permits/leases in these areas not meeting Land Health Standards, with focus on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows. The BLM may use other criteria for prioritization to respond to urgent natural resource concerns (e.g., fire) and legal obligations. - The BLM will collaborate with appropriate federal agencies and the State of Wyoming, as contemplated under the Wyoming Governor's Executive Order 2013-3, to: (1) develop appropriate conservation objectives; (2) define a framework for evaluating situations where Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives are not being achieved on federal land, to determine if a significant causal relationship exists between improper grazing (by wildlife or wild horses or livestock) and Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives; and (3) identify appropriate site-based actions to achieve Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives within the framework. Absent substantial and compelling information that adjustments are necessary to the core population area strategy, these core population areas, connectivity areas, identified and mapped winter concentration areas, and protective stipulations shall not be altered for a minimum of 7 years. Any changes shall involve a transparent process that provides an opportunity for public input and proper consideration of any proposal consistent with the provisions contemplated	Allow livestock grazing on all public lands in the planning area except where an evaluation has determined it to be incompatible with other resource uses or values (campgrounds, entrances of caves, sites of cultural significance). - The BLM will prioritize (1) the review of grazing permits/leases, in particular to determine if modification is necessary prior to renewal, and (2) the processing of grazing permits/leases in Greater Sage-Grouse priority habitat (Core Population Areas and Core Population Connectivity Corridors) followed by general habitat. In setting workload priorities, precedence will be given to existing permits/leases in these areas not meeting Land Health Standards, with focus on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows. The BLM may use other criteria for prioritization to respond to urgent natural resource concerns (e.g., fire) and legal obligations. - Within PHMA, if monitoring data show the wildlife/special status species standard has not been met nor progress being made toward meeting that standard, there would be an evaluation and a determination made as to the cause. If it is determined that the current authorized livestock use is a significant causal factor in failing to achieve the wildlife/special status species standards, the BLM would address the achievement or progress toward achieving the LHSs (43 CFR 4180.2) and, if needed, Greater Sage-Grouse habitat maintenance or improvement. - The BLM will collaborate with appropriate federal agencies and the State of Wyoming, as contemplated under the Wyoming Governor's Executive Order 2013-3, to: (1) develop appropriate conservation objectives; (2) define a framework for evaluating situations where Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives are not being achieved on federal land, to determine if a significant causal relationship exists between improper grazing (by wildlife or wild horses or livestock) and Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives; and (3) identify appropriate site-based actions to	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
under Wyoming's core population area strategy. • The NEPA analysis for renewals and modifications of livestock grazing permits/leases that include lands within PHMAs will include specific management thresholds based on Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Objectives Table and Land Health Standards (43 CFR 4180.2) and one or more defined responses that will allow the authorizing officer to make adjustments to livestock grazing that have already been subjected to NEPA analysis. • Allotments within priority habitat (Core Population Areas and Core Population Connectivity Corridors), and focusing on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows, will be prioritized for field checks to help ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the grazing permits. Field checks could include monitoring for actual use, utilization, and use supervision. • At the time a permittee or lessee voluntarily relinquishes a permit or lease, the BLM will consider whether the public lands where that permitted use was authorized should remain available for livestock grazing or be used for other resource management objectives, such as reserve common allotments or fuel breaks. This does not apply to or impact grazing preference transfers, which are addressed in 43 CFR 4110.2-3. 9,992 acres are incompatible with and 772,110 acres are available for livestock grazing. This does not apply to or impact grazing preference transfers, which are addressed in 43 CFR 4110.2-3.	achieve Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives within the framework. Absent substantial and compelling information that adjustments are necessary to the core population area strategy, these core population areas, connectivity areas, identified and mapped winter concentration areas, and protective stipulations shall not be altered for a minimum of 7 years. Any changes shall involve a transparent process that provides an opportunity for public input and proper consideration of any proposal consistent with the provisions contemplated under Wyoming's core population area strategy. • When NEPA analysis is required for a specific implementation action, one alternative would include mechanisms to make adjustments to meet or make progress toward meeting the wildlife/special status species standard. The analysis should also identify the BLM-approved data collection methodologies used for monitoring conditions and determining when adjustments are necessary. If current grazing management meets land health standards and provides for Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, there would be no need to analyze an alternative for Greater Sage-Grouse. Within PHMA, seasonal habitat objectives for Greater Sage-Grouse apply only to those habitats delineated within an allotment during the specific season (e.g., breeding season objectives during breeding season). Data needed to inform the relationship between the authorized use and habitat condition would come from sample locations that appropriately reflect the impact of the authorized use on habitat conditions. Data points should fall within Greater Sage-Grouse seasonal habitat areas and be collected on ecological sites that have the potential to produce Greater Sage-Grouse habitat. • Allotments within priority habitat (Core Population Areas and Core Population Connectivity Corridors), and focusing on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows, will be prioritized for field checks to help ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the grazing	(See above.)

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
(See above.)	permits. Field checks could include monitoring for actual use, utilization, and use supervision. - Authorized uses in PHMA that incorporate habitat objectives for Greater Sage-Grouse must develop desired conditions based on Greater Sage-Grouse habitats present in the allotment and the ecological potential of sites that supports these habitats. Metrics used to monitor for objectives must be developed and inform the wildlife/SSS portion of the Standards for Healthy Rangelands. - At the time a permittee or lessee voluntarily relinquishes a permit or lease, the BLM will consider whether the public lands where that permitted use was authorized should remain available for livestock grazing or be used for other resource management objectives, such as reserve common allotments or fuel breaks. This does not apply to or impact grazing preference transfers, which are addressed in 43 CFR 4110.2-3. 9,992 acres are incompatible with and 772,110 acres are available for livestock grazing. This does not apply to or impact grazing preference transfers, which are addressed in 43 CFR 4110.2-3.	(See above.)
MD Grazing-6019: Locate livestock salt or mineral supplements a minimum of 500 feet away from water sources, riparian areas, and aspen stands.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD Grazing-6021: Provide rest/deferment from livestock grazing following wildfire, prescribed burns, and other vegetative treatments until resource objectives are met.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2.17.2 Relevant Appendices

The following table shows which appendices from the 2015 and 2019 plans have management direction that may change through this RMP amendment. If 2019 is not listed in the year, then no change was made to the appendix between the 2015 and 2019 plans. The 2015 appendices can be found on [the Buffalo RMP ePlanning website](#). The 2019 appendices can be found on [the Wyoming GRSG ePlanning website](#).

ARMPA Appendix Name	Year	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
A: Maps	2015	Yes
A: Approved RMP Amendment with Management Goals, Objectives, and Decisions	2019	Yes
B: Fluid Mineral Lease Notices; Lease Stipulations; and the Process for Exceptions, Modifications, and Waivers	2015	Yes
C: Best Management Practices and Required Design Features	2015	Yes
B: Required Design Features	2019	Yes
D: Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management Strategy	2015	Yes
C: Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management Strategy	2019	Yes
E: Legislation and Policy Pertaining to Specific Resources	2015	No
F: Mitigation Guidelines for Surface-Disturbing and Disruptive Activities, Wyoming Bureau of Land Management	2015	No
G: Federal Oil and Gas Operations on Split Estate Lands	2015	No
H: Proposed Resource Management Plan and Approved Resource Management Plan Crosswalk Tables	2015	No
I: Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands	2015	No
J: Surface Disturbance and Reasonable Foreseeable Actions	2015	No
K: Biological Opinion	2015	No
L: Buffalo Air Resources Management Plan	2015	No
M: Reclamation Policy for the Buffalo Field Office	2015	No
N: Buffalo Water Resources Management Plan	2015	No
O: Oil and Gas Operations	2015	No
P: Fire and Fuels Management	2015	No
Q: Biological Resources Support Document	2015	No
R: Lands Identified for Disposal Through Exchange or Sale	2015	No
S: Travel and Transportation Management	2015	No
T: Recreation Management Activities	2015	No
U: Livestock Grazing Allotments	2015	No
V: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	2015	No
W: Public Involvement, Consultation, and Coordination	2015	No
X: Implementation, Monitoring, and Evaluation	2015	No

Appendix 2.18

Cody, Wyoming RMP Revisions

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2.18 CODY, WYOMING RMP REVISIONS

This appendix presents the approved RMP revision language from the record of decision for the Cody RMP that relate to GRSG management. The table below notes which goals, objectives, appendices, and management decisions/actions have a potential to change as a result of the current planning effort and if so, under which alternatives changes are being considered. Note that any references to tables and appendices are to those applicable RMP appendices that are listed in **Section 2.18.2** of this appendix.

2.18.1 Existing GRSG RMP Management – Cody RMP

Table 1. Summary of Goals, Objectives, and Management Actions to the Cody RMP

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Land Use Plan Revisions/Amendments to the Cody RMP		
MO MR:2.3: Priority will be given to leasing and development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, outside of PHMA and GHMA. When analyzing leasing and authorizing development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, in PHMA and GHMA, and subject to applicable stipulations for the conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse, priority will be given to development in non-habitat areas first and then in the least suitable habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse. The implementation of these priorities will be subject to valid existing rights and any applicable law or regulation, including, but not limited to, 30 U.S.C. 226(p) and 43 CFR 3162.3-1(h).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
*MO MR:2.4: Where a proposed fluid mineral development project on an existing lease could adversely affect Greater Sage-Grouse populations or habitat, the BLM will work with the lessees, operators, or other project proponents to avoid, reduce, and mitigate adverse impacts to the extent compatible with lessees' rights to drill and produce fluid mineral resources. The BLM will work with the lessee, operator, or project proponent in developing an APD for the lease to avoid and minimize impacts to Greater Sage-Grouse or its habitat and will ensure that the best information about the Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat informs and helps to guide development of such federal leases.	Where a proposed fluid mineral development project on an existing lease could adversely affect Greater Sage-Grouse populations or habitat, the BLM will work with the lessees, operators, or other project proponents to avoid, reduce, and mitigate adverse impacts to the extent compatible with lessees' rights to drill and produce fluid mineral resources. The BLM will work with the lessee, operator, or project proponent in developing an APD for the lease to avoid and minimize impacts to Greater Sage-Grouse or its habitat and will ensure that the best information about the Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat informs and helps to guide development of such federal leases (see MDs 4107, 4108, 4109, 4111, and 4157).	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
**MD 2006 MR:3.1: Consider interest in exploration for, or leasing of, federal coal (Map 3-5), if any on a case-by-case basis. Allow coal exploration licenses subject to the regulations of 43 CFR 3410, and subject to guidance mitigating for surface-disturbing activities in the Wyoming BLM Standard Oil and Gas- Lease Stipulations (Appendix B, Oil and Gas Lease Notices and Lease Stipulations, including Exception, Modification, and Waiver Criteria (p. 211)). Before issuing a coal exploration license, require the authorized officer to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement, if necessary, of the potential effects of the proposed exploration on the natural and socioeconomic environment of the affected area. If an application for a federal coal lease is received, conduct an appropriate land use and environmental analysis, including the coal screening process, to determine whether the area(s) proposed for leasing is (are) acceptable for coal development and leasing (as per 43 CFR 3425). If public lands are determined to be acceptable for further consideration for coal leasing, amend the land use plan as necessary. Only accept federal coal lease applications on those federal coal lands with development potential identified as suitable for further leasing consideration, after application of the coal screens and unsuitability criteria. At the time an application for a new coal lease or lease modification is submitted to the BLM, the BLM will determine whether the lease application area is "unsuitable" for all or certain coal mining methods pursuant to 43 CFR 3461.5. PHMA is essential habitat for maintaining Greater Sage-Grouse for purposes of the suitability criteria set forth at 43 CFR 3461.5(o)(1). The BLM will also consider that USFWS has found "the core area strategy...if implemented by all landowners via regulatory mechanisms, would provide adequate protection for sage-grouse and their habitats in the state" when considering leasing coal in PHMA under the criteria set for at 43 CFR 3461.5(o)(1) (USFWS 2010).	Consider interest in exploration for, or leasing of, federal coal (Map 3-5), if any on a case-by-case basis. Allow coal exploration licenses subject to the regulations of 43 CFR 3410, and subject to guidance mitigating for surface-disturbing activities in the Wyoming BLM Standard Oil and Gas Lease Stipulations (2015 Cody RMP Appendix B, Oil and Gas Lease Notices and Lease Stipulations, including Exception, Modification, and Waiver Criteria (p. 211)). Before issuing a coal exploration license, require the authorized officer to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement, if necessary, of the potential effects of the proposed exploration on the natural and socioeconomic environment of the affected area. If an application for a federal coal lease is received, conduct an appropriate land use and environmental analysis, including the coal screening process, to determine whether the area(s) proposed for leasing is (are) acceptable for coal development and leasing (as per 43 CFR 3425). If public lands are determined to be acceptable for further consideration for coal leasing, amend the land use plan as necessary. Only accept federal coal lease applications on those federal coal lands with development potential identified as suitable for further leasing consideration, after application of the coal screens and unsuitability criteria. At the time an application for a new coal lease or lease modification is submitted to the BLM, the BLM will determine whether the lease application area is "unsuitable" for all or certain coal mining methods pursuant to 43 CFR 3461.5. PHMA is essential habitat for maintaining Greater Sage-Grouse for purposes of the suitability criteria set forth at 43 CFR 3461.5(o)(1). The BLM will also consider that USFWS has found "the core area strategy...if implemented by all landowners via regulatory mechanisms, would provide adequate protection for sage-grouse and their habitats in the state" when considering leasing coal in PHMA under the criteria set for at 43 CFR 3461.5(o)(1) (USFWS 2010) (see also MDs 4107, 4108, 4109, 4111, and 4157).	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
**MD 2013: Process oil and gas lease applications on a case-by-case basis. Ensure that leasing activities in PHMAs comply with Greater Sage-Grouse RMP decisions and remain in compliance with laws, regulations, and policy.	Process oil and gas lease applications on a case-by-case basis. Ensure that leasing activities in PHMAs comply with Greater Sage-Grouse RMP decisions and remain in compliance with laws, regulations, and policy (see also MDs 4107, 4108, 4109, 4111, and 4157).	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
**MD 2023: Delineate Oil and Gas Management Areas (Map 3-9) (108,174 acres of federal mineral estate) around existing intensively-developed fields, applying a 2-mile buffer from the outer boundary of the existing field (Map 3-10); adding enhanced oil recovery areas identified by the Governor's Office Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute and excluding Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs. Manage these areas primarily for oil and gas exploration and development. Oil and gas development, including enhanced oil recovery operations, within Oil and Gas Management Areas is allowed to take place at the same level and density as the existing development in the field, except in the Oregon Basin Oil Field, where new development must result in no net gain of surface disturbance. Levels and densities beyond the existing field development may require additional reclamation or compensatory offsite mitigation. As oil and gas fields expand or exploration reaches beyond the Oil and Gas Management Areas depicted on Map 3-9, Oil and Gas Management Areas may be enlarged as appropriate. To enlarge Oil and Gas Management Areas, the expansion area would: i) have to be adjacent to the field and under valid oil and gas lease(s) with stipulations allowing surface occupancy and development; ii) have to have a surface density of, on average, at least four well pads per 640 acres; a determination that additional well density is required to efficiently and adequately produce the oil or gas resource; iii) have a project-specific environmental analysis prepared to analyze the impacts and determine operating methods, mitigation, and BMPs to be used in the efficient and comprehensive development of the field; iv) need surface resources to be satisfactorily mitigated; and v) need commitment to accelerate reclamation as required by the authorized officer.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MO FM:1.5: Following wildland fires, conduct appropriate emergency stabilization and rehabilitation when and where needed. In priority Greater Sage-Grouse habitat areas, prioritize suppression immediately after life and property to conserve the habitat. In general Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, prioritize suppression where wildfires threaten priority Greater Sage-Grouse habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO FM:2.1: Consult and cooperate with adjacent landowners, state and local governments, and other stakeholders to plan and implement prescribed fire and other vegetation treatments across the landscape. In areas of general Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, design and implement fuels treatments with an emphasis on protecting existing sagebrush ecosystems.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 3008: Suppress fires threatening Greater Sage-Grouse habitats and crucial winter wildlife habitat within Wyoming big sagebrush communities. Where fire would be utilized to meet resource objectives, work closely with resource specialists to protect and improve Greater Sage-Grouse habitat. For fuels management, the BLM would consider multiple tools for fuels reduction and would analyze in NEPA compliance documentation before electing to implement prescribed fire in PHMAs. If prescribed fire is used in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan will address: • why alternative techniques were not selected as a viable options; • how Greater Sage-Grouse goals and objectives would be met by its use; • how the COT Report objectives would be addressed and met; and • a risk assessment to address how potential threats to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat would be minimized. Prescribed fire as a vegetation or fuels treatment in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Prescribed fire could be used to meet specific fuels objectives that would protect Greater Sage-Grouse habitat in PHMAs (e.g., creation of fuel breaks that would disrupt the fuel continuity across the landscape in stands where annual invasive grasses are a minor component in the understory, burning slash piles from conifer reduction treatments, used as a component with other treatment methods to combat annual grasses and restore native plant communities). Prescribed fire in known crucial winter wildlife habitat shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Any prescribed fire in and/or around crucial winter wildlife habitat must be strategically-designed to reduce wildfire risk and protect winter range habitat quality.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MO BR:2.6: In PHMAs, the desired condition is to maintain all lands ecologically capable of producing sagebrush (but no less than 70 percent) with a minimum of 15 percent sagebrush cover or as consistent with specific ecological site conditions. The attributes necessary to sustain these habitats are described in Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health (BLM Technical Reference 1734-6 [BLM 2005c]).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MG BR:9: GREATER SAGE-GROUSE – Sustain the integrity of the sagebrush biome to provide the amount, continuity, and quality of habitat that is necessary to maintain sustainable populations of Greater Sage-Grouse and other species by achieving the objectives below.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MO BR:9.1: Maintain large patches of high quality sagebrush habitats, with emphasis on patches occupied by Greater Sage-Grouse.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:9.2: Maintain connections between sagebrush habitats, with emphasis on connections between habitats occupied by Greater Sage-Grouse.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:10.1: Reconnect large patches of sagebrush habitat with emphasis on reconnecting patches occupied by stronghold and isolated populations of Greater Sage-Grouse.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
**MD 4059: Maintain or improve important wildlife habitats through vegetative manipulations, habitat improvement projects, livestock grazing strategies and the application of The Wyoming Guidelines for Managing Sagebrush Communities with Emphasis on Fire Management (Wyoming Interagency Vegetation Committee 2002) and the Wyoming BLM Standard Mitigation Guidelines for Surface-Disturbing and Disruptive Activities (Appendix F, Wyoming Bureau of Land Management Mitigation Guidelines for Surface-Disturbing and Disruptive Activities (p. 351)), BMPs (Appendix C, Required Design Features and Best Management Practices (p. 251)), and similar guidance updated over time.	Maintain or improve important wildlife habitats through vegetative manipulations, habitat improvement projects, livestock grazing strategies and the application of The Wyoming Guidelines for Managing Sagebrush Communities with Emphasis on Fire Management (Wyoming Interagency Vegetation Committee 2002) and the Wyoming BLM Standard Mitigation Guidelines for Surface-Disturbing and Disruptive Activities (Appendix F, Wyoming Bureau of Land Management Mitigation Guidelines for Surface-Disturbing and Disruptive Activities (p. 351)), BMPs (2019 Wyoming GrSG ARMPA Appendix B, Required Design Features and Best Management Practices), and similar guidance updated over time.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD 4071: Conduct habitat enhancement vegetation treatments within sagebrush communities as opportunities and funding allow, consistent with EO 2015-4 (Wyoming Office of the Governor 2015).	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 4072: Modify identified hazard fences, and analyze and construct new fences in accordance with wildlife needs, the BLM Fencing Handbook 1741-1, and WO IM 2010-022, Managing Structures for the Safety of Sage-grouse, Sharp-tailed grouse, and Lesser Prairie-chicken, and similar guidance and policy as updated over time.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4077: Allow water development projects in crucial elk winter range and in Greater Sage-Grouse nesting habitat with 10 inches or less annual precipitation only when adverse effects can be avoided, minimized and/or compensated based on site-specific analysis. Allow existing uses pending site-specific analysis on a priority basis.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4081: Avoid wind energy projects in big game crucial winter range and raptor concentration areas. Wind-energy development would be avoided in Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs (Map 3-17), and not allowed unless it can be sufficiently demonstrated that the development activity would not result in declines of Greater Sage-Grouse PHMA populations. Sufficient demonstration of “no declines” should be coordinated with the WGFD and USFWS.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD 4088: Discourage the use of broad-spectrum insecticides where insect control is required. Target pest control toward key problem areas and schedule applications to be effective in minimum doses in Greater Sage-Grouse brood-rearing areas. Field Offices may implement treatments within Greater Sage-Grouse habitat utilizing RAATS protocols	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4089: Avoid aerial pesticide spraying in favor of ground applications to minimize drift into non-target areas in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat unless benefits of treatments are likely to outweigh impacts.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4090: Avoid applying pesticides to Greater Sage-Grouse breeding habitat during the nesting and early brood-rearing season (March 15 through June 30) to reduce the loss of food supply to chicks and avoid the chance of secondary poisoning unless benefits of treatments are likely to outweigh impacts.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 4091: Maintain seeps, springs, wet meadows, and riparian vegetation in a functional and diverse condition for young Greater Sage-Grouse and other species that depend on forbs and insects associated with these areas. Consider management actions if desirable green vegetation associated with these wet areas is not available, accessible, or cannot be maintained with current livestock, wildlife, or wild horse use, and the impacts are outweighed by the improved habitat quality.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4092: Restore Greater Sage-Grouse brood-rearing habitats in riparian/wetland areas.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4093: Restore lost riparian functioning systems by repairing abnormally incised drainages to raise water tables and increase water storage and brood-rearing habitats within Greater Sage-Grouse habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 4094: Manage vegetation composition diversity and structure, as determined by ESD, or other methods that reference site potential, and WGFD protocols to achieve Greater Sage-Grouse habitat management objectives, in cooperation with stakeholders. Evaluate the role of existing seedings that are currently composed of primarily introduced perennial grasses in and adjacent to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat to determine if they should be restored to sagebrush or habitat of higher quality for Greater Sage-Grouse. If these seedings provide value in conserving or enhancing Greater Sage-Grouse habitats, then no restoration would be necessary. Assess the compatibility of these seedings for Greater Sage-Grouse habitat during the land health assessments. Burned areas within PHMAs would be restored to suitable habitat with consideration given to ESDs, reference sites, site potential and local variability. The BLM could bring in burned area rehabilitation and Burned Area Emergency Response teams who would work cooperatively with partners at the federal, state, and local levels to rehabilitate and restore Greater Sage-Grouse habitats in a manner consistent with the core habitat populations area strategy for conservation. DDCT reviews would be conducted in coordination with the WGFD Habitat Protection Program located in Cheyenne, Wyoming at the WGFD headquarters. Areas within PHMAs would be prioritized for restoration of Greater Sage-Grouse habitat beyond immediate response.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4095: Maintain sagebrush and understory diversity (relative to ecological site description) in crucial seasonal Greater Sage-Grouse habitats unless such removal is necessary to achieve Greater Sage-Grouse habitat management objectives. For example, thinning small patches of dense sagebrush may increase desirable forbs in early brood-rearing habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 4096: Increase the composition and canopy cover of Wyoming big sagebrush, within existing nonnative grass seedings with less than 5 percent sagebrush canopy cover, to greater than or equal to neighboring sagebrush communities or historical levels. (See Shrubland-Salt Desert/Salt Bottom on Map 3-14; deeper soiled, and gentler sloped portions of the Shrubland-Salt Desert/Salt Bottom, colored in pink, would be those areas where sagebrush restoration efforts could be conducted.)	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4097: Investigate opportunities to increase sagebrush in lower precipitation zones.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4098: Plan and construct mining and mineral development activities, to the degree possible given state water rights, to minimize disturbances that would result in alterations to springs and riparian Greater Sage-Grouse habitat. Alternative water sources may be developed to replace natural sources that have been affected or destroyed during these development activities.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD 4099: Treat constructed or non-natural water storage impoundments to control mosquito breeding (and the associated spread of West Nile virus), to prevent disease spread to Greater Sage-Grouse as necessary.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4100: In cooperation with stakeholders, manage to promote the growth and persistence of native shrubs, grasses, and forbs needed by Greater Sage-Grouse for seasonal food and concealment	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4101: In cooperation with stakeholders, design and locate fences so as not to disturb PHMAs. Increase the visibility of fences in these areas which have been identified as hazardous to flying Greater Sage-Grouse.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 4102: Conduct fire management activities to minimize overall wildfire size and frequency in sagebrush plant communities where Greater Sage-Grouse habitat objectives are at risk. General priorities for habitat protection: Priority # 1 – Protection of Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs. Priority # 2 – Wyoming big sagebrush communities outside Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs and habitats recovering from disturbance within or adjacent to Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4103: Annually maintain FMPs to incorporate updated sagebrush habitat information as well as fire suppression priorities in sagebrush habitats. Incorporate fire management objectives for the management of sagebrush ecosystems into FMPs. Provide fire management objectives for sagebrush ecosystems to initial attack personnel at the beginning of each fire season.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4104: Establish fuels treatment projects at strategic locations to minimize size of wildfires and limit loss of Greater Sage-Grouse habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4105: Reintroduce appropriate fire regimes to limit conifer encroachment into the sagebrush plant communities. Take into account invasive herbaceous species and Fire Regime Group and FRCC (measure of departure from historic fire regime) with treatments. Where possible, achieve a balance between treating areas that have significantly departed from the historic fire regime (Condition Class 3) and areas that are functioning within an appropriate fire regime (Condition Class 1).	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4106: Remove conifers encroaching into sagebrush habitats in a manner that considers tribal and cultural values. Prioritize treatments closest to occupied Greater Sage-Grouse habitats and near occupied leks, and where juniper encroachment is phase 1 or phase 2 as defined in Miller et al. (2005). Refine the location of specific priority areas to be treated by utilizing site-specific analysis and principles like those included in the FIAT report (Chambers et. al. [2014]) and other ongoing modeling efforts to address conifer encroachment.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
**MD 4107: Inside PHMAs Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities on or within a 0.6-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks. The authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental record of review determines that the action, as proposed or conditioned, would not impair the function or utility of the site for the current or subsequent seasonal habitat, life-history, or behavioral needs of Greater Sage-Grouse (Map 3-17). Outside PHMAs Prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities and apply a NSO restriction within a 1/4-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (Map 3-17). Outside Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs, the BLM's goal is to sustain important habitats that support core populations and to maintain lek persistence over the long term in sufficient proportions of the Greater Sage-Grouse population to facilitate movement and genetic transfer between core populations, including those found in adjacent states.	Inside PHMAs Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities on or within a 0.6-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped). Outside PHMAs Prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities and apply a NSO restriction within a 1/4-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped) (Map 3-17). Outside Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs, the BLM's goal is to sustain important habitats that support core populations and to maintain lek persistence over the long term in sufficient proportions of the Greater Sage-Grouse population to facilitate movement and genetic transfer between core populations, including those found in adjacent states. The authorized officer may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis subject to appropriate site-specific analysis, mitigation requirements, and consultation with the State of Wyoming and consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming's Executive Order 2015-4) (see MD 4157).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
**MD 4108: Inside PHMAs Prohibit disruptive activities on or within a 0.6-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks from March 15 to June 30 (40,039 acres). Outside PHMAs Prohibit disruptive activities on or within a ¼-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks from March 15 to June 30 (1,116 acres). Inside PHMAs Prohibit surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities from March 15 to June 30 to protect Greater Sage-Grouse breeding, nesting, and early brood-rearing habitat (437,045 acres). Apply this timing limitation throughout the PHMAs. Activities in unsuitable habitats would be evaluated under the exception and modification criteria and could be allowed on a case-by-case basis. Outside PHMAs Prohibit surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities in Greater Sage-Grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitat within a 2-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks from March 15 to June 30. Note: Where credible data support different timeframes for these seasonal restrictions, dates may be expanded by up to 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates.	Inside PHMAs Prohibit disruptive activities on or within a 0.6-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped) from March 15 to June 30 (40,039 acres). Outside PHMAs Prohibit disruptive activities on or within a ¼-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped) from March 15 to June 30 (1,116 acres). Inside PHMAs Prohibit surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities from March 15 to June 30 to protect Greater Sage-Grouse breeding, nesting, and early brood-rearing habitat (437,045 acres). Apply this timing limitation throughout the PHMAs. Outside PHMAs Prohibit surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities in Greater Sage-Grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitat within a 2-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped) from March 15 to June 30. Note: Where credible data support different timeframes for these seasonal restrictions, dates may be expanded by up to 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates. The authorized officer may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis subject to appropriate site-specific analysis, mitigation requirements, and consultation with the State of Wyoming and consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming's Executive Order 2015-4) (see MD 4157).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
**MD 4109: Greater Sage-Grouse winter concentration areas: Surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities in sage-grouse winter concentration areas would be prohibited from December 1–March 14. Activities in unsuitable habitats within PHMAs would be evaluated under the exception and modification criteria and could be allowed on a case-by-case basis. Protection of additional mapped winter concentration areas in GHMAs would be implemented only where winter concentration areas are identified as supporting biologically significant numbers of sage-grouse nesting in PHMAs and/or attending leks within PHMAs. Appropriate seasonal timing restrictions and habitat protection measures would be considered and evaluated in consultation with the WGFD in all identified winter concentration areas. Evaluate and allow activities in unsuitable habitats within PHMAs in accordance with exception and modification criteria on a case-by-case basis. Protection of additional mapped winter concentration areas in GHMAs would be implemented only where winter concentration areas are identified as supporting biologically significant numbers of Greater Sage-Grouse nesting in PHMAs and/or attending leks within PHMAs. Appropriate seasonal timing restrictions and habitat protection measures would be considered and evaluated in consultation with the WGFD in all identified winter concentration areas.	Greater Sage-Grouse winter concentration areas: Surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities in Greater Sage-Grouse winter concentration areas would be prohibited from December 1–March 14. The authorized officer may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis subject to appropriate site-specific analysis, mitigation requirements, and consultation with the State of Wyoming and consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming’s Executive Order 2015-4) (see MD 4157). Protection of additional mapped winter concentration areas in GHMA would be implemented where winter concentration areas are mapped and designated by the State of Wyoming. Appropriate seasonal timing restrictions and habitat protection measures would be considered and evaluated on consultation with the WGFD in all identified winter concentration areas.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
**MD 4110: Density of Disturbances: In Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs, the density of disturbance of energy or mining facilities would be limited to an average of one site per square mile (640 acres) within the DDCT, subject to valid existing rights (Appendix D, Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management Strategy (p. 273)). The one location and cumulative value of existing disturbances would not exceed 5 percent of habitat of the DDCT area. Inside PHMA, all suitable habitat disturbed (any program area) will not exceed 5 percent within the DDCT area using the DDCT process.	Density of Disturbances: In Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs, the density of disturbance of energy or mining facilities would be limited to an average of one site per square mile (640 acres) within the DDCT, subject to valid existing rights (2019 Wyoming GrSG ARMPA Appendix C, Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management Strategy). The one location and cumulative value of existing disturbances would not exceed 5 percent of habitat of the DDCT area. Inside PHMA, all suitable habitat disturbed (any program area) will not exceed 5 percent within the DDCT area using the DDCT process.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Consolidate anthropogenic features from development and transmission on the landscape. Allow on a case-by-case basis high profile structures within Greater Sage-Grouse nesting habitat. Sagebrush Treatment: For vegetation treatments in sagebrush within PHMAs, refer to WGFD Protocols for Treating Sagebrush to Benefit Sage-Grouse (WGFD 2011, as updated) and BLM WO IM 2013-128 (Sage-grouse Conservation Related to Wildland Fire and Fuels Management). These recommended protocols, subject to seasonal conditions of approval, would be used in determining whether proposed treatment constitutes a “disturbance” that would contribute toward the 5 percent threshold for habitat maintenance. Additionally, these protocols would be used to determine whether the proposed treatment configuration would be expected to have neutral or beneficial impacts for PHMA populations or if they represent additional habitat loss or fragmentation. Treatments to enhance sagebrush/grasslands habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse would be evaluated based upon habitat quality and the functionality/use of treated habitats post-treatment. The BLM would work collaboratively with partners at the state and local level to maintain and enhance Greater Sage-Grouse habitats. Seasonal restrictions would be applied, as needed, for implementing fuels management treatments according to the type of seasonal habitat present. Wildfire burns will be treated as disturbed if sagebrush is reduced below 5 percent unless there is an implementation plan outlining restoration efforts and 3 years of data showing a trend back to suitable habitat.	Consolidate anthropogenic features from development and transmission on the landscape. Allow on a case-by-case basis high profile structures within Greater Sage-Grouse nesting habitat. Sagebrush Treatment: For vegetation treatments in sagebrush within PHMAs, refer to WGFD Protocols for Treating Sagebrush to Benefit Sage-Grouse (WGFD 2015, as updated) and BLM WO IM 2013-128 (Sage-grouse Conservation Related to Wildland Fire and Fuels Management). These recommended protocols, subject to seasonal conditions of approval, would be used in determining whether proposed treatment constitutes a “disturbance” that would contribute toward the 5 percent threshold for habitat maintenance. Additionally, these protocols would be used to determine whether the proposed treatment configuration would be expected to have neutral or beneficial impacts for PHMA populations or if they represent additional habitat loss or fragmentation. Treatments to enhance sagebrush/grasslands habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse would be evaluated based upon habitat quality and the functionality/use of treated habitats post-treatment. The BLM would work collaboratively with partners at the state and local level to maintain and enhance Greater Sage-Grouse habitats. Seasonal restrictions would be applied, as needed, for implementing fuels management treatments according to the type of seasonal habitat present. Wildfire burns will be treated as disturbed if sagebrush is reduced below 5 percent unless there is an implementation plan outlining restoration efforts and 3 years of data showing a trend back to suitable habitat.	(See above.)

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
*MD 4111: New project noise levels, either individual or cumulative, should not exceed 10 dBA (as measured by L50) above baseline noise at the perimeter of the lek from 6:00 pm to 6:00 am during the breeding season (March 1 to May 15). Specific noise protocols for measurement and implementation will be developed as additional research and information emerges.	Within PHMA (core only), new project noise levels, either individual or cumulative, should not exceed 10 dBA (as measured by L50) above baseline noise at the perimeter of the lek (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped) from 6:00 pm to 8:00 am during the breeding season (March 1–May 15). The authorized officer may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis subject to appropriate site-specific analysis, mitigation requirements, and consultation with the State of Wyoming and consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming’s Executive Order 2015-4) (see MD 4157). In coordination with the State of Wyoming, specific noise protocols for measurement and implementation will be developed as additional research and information emerges. These measures would be considered at the site-specific project level where and when appropriate.	No change proposed.
MD 4112: Allow motorized vehicle use in Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs consistent with other resource objectives. Manage new road construction in and adjacent to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat consistent with applicable restrictions on surface-disturbing and disruptive activities. Avoid construction of new or local collector roads (as defined in BLM Manual 9113 [BLM 2011d]) within 1.9 miles of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks within PHMAs. Prohibit all new roads within 0.6 miles of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks within PHMAs. Construct roads to minimum design standards needed for production activities.	Allow motorized vehicle use in Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs consistent with other resource objectives. Manage new road construction in and adjacent to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat consistent with applicable restrictions on surface-disturbing and disruptive activities. Avoid construction of new or local collector roads (as defined in BLM Manual 9113 [BLM 2011d]) within 1.9 miles of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped) within PHMAs. Prohibit all new roads within 0.6 miles of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped) within PHMAs. Construct roads to minimum design standards needed for production activities.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 4113: In PHMAs, implement mitigation and minimization guidelines and required design features, including specific measures for Greater Sage-Grouse (refer to Appendix C, Required Design Features and Best Management Practices (p. 251)), as applicable and consistent with EO 2015-4 (Wyoming Office of the Governor 2015). Incorporate Greater Sage-Grouse specific measures into project proposals as required design features or mitigation for any authorized federal action, regardless of surface ownership.	In PHMAs, implement mitigation and minimization guidelines and required design features, including specific measures for Greater Sage- Grouse (refer to 2019 Wyoming GrSG ARMPA Appendix B, Required Design Features and Best Management Practices), as applicable and consistent with EO 2015-4 (Wyoming Office of the Governor 2015). Incorporate Greater Sage-Grouse specific measures into project proposals as required design features or mitigation for any authorized federal action, regardless of surface ownership.	—
MD 4114: In PHMAs, require the development of a wildlife resource monitoring and mitigation plan to address potential impacts from mineral development on wildlife populations and/or habitat on a case-by-case basis.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4115: Use the following travel management criteria in PHMAs: • During subsequent travel management planning, all routes within PHMAs would undergo a route evaluation to determine its purpose and need and the potential resource and/or user conflicts from motorized travel. Where resource and/or user conflicts outweigh the purpose and need for the route, the route would be considered for closure or considered for relocation outside of sensitive Greater Sage-Grouse habitat. • During implementation-level travel planning, threats to Greater Sage-Grouse and their habitat would be considered when evaluating route designations and/or closures. • During subsequent travel management planning, routes within PHMAs that do not have a purpose or need would be considered for closure. • During subsequent travel management planning, routes within PHMAs that are duplicative parallel, or redundant would be considered for closure. • During subsequent travel management planning, OHV timing limitations would be considered in important seasonal habitats where OHV use is a threat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
• During subsequent travel management planning, consider limiting snow machine travel to designated routes or consider seasonal closures in Greater Sage-Grouse wintering areas from November 1 through March 31. • During subsequent travel management planning, routes in PHMAs not required for public access or recreation with a current administrative/agency purpose or need would be evaluated for administrative access only. • During subsequent travel management planning, prioritize restoration of routes not designated in a Travel Management Plan within PHMAs. • During subsequent travel management planning, consider using seed mixes or transplant techniques that will maintain or enhance Greater Sage-Grouse habitat when rehabilitating linear disturbances. • During subsequent travel management planning, consider scheduling road maintenance to avoid disturbance during sensitive periods and times to the extent practicable. Use time of day limits (after 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM) to reduce impacts on Greater Sage-Grouse during breeding and nesting periods.	(See above.)	(See above.)
*MD 4116: The Greater Sage-Grouse adaptive management plan provides regulatory assurance that unintended negative impacts to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat will be addressed before consequences become severe or irreversible. Adaptive management triggers are essential for identifying when potential management changes are needed in order to continue meeting Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives. With respect to Greater Sage-Grouse, all regulatory entities in Wyoming, including the BLM, use soft and hard triggers. Soft and hard triggers are focused on three metrics: 1) number of active leks, 2) acres of available habitat, and 3) population trends based on annual lek counts. See Appendix D, Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management Strategy (p. 273) for more information on soft and hard triggers.	The Greater Sage-Grouse adaptive management plan provides regulatory assurance that unintended negative impacts to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat will be addressed before consequences become severe or irreversible. Adaptive management triggers are essential for identifying when potential management changes are needed in order to continue meeting Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives. With respect to Greater Sage-Grouse, all regulatory entities in Wyoming, including the BLM, use soft and hard triggers. Soft and hard triggers are focused on three metrics: 1) number of active leks, 2) acres of available habitat, and 3) population trends based on annual lek counts. See 2019 Wyoming GrSG ARMPA Appendix C, Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management Strategy for more information on soft and hard triggers.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
<u>Soft Triggers Response:</u> Soft triggers are indicators that management or specific activities may not be achieving the intended results of conservation action or that unanticipated changes to populations or habitats have occurred that have the potential to place habitats or populations at risk. The soft trigger is any deviation from normal trends in habitat or population in any given year. Metrics include, but are not limited to, annual lek counts, wing counts, aerial surveys, habitat monitoring, and DDCT evaluations. For population metrics, normal population trends are calculated as the 5-year running mean of annual population counts. BLM field offices, with the assistance of their respective land and RMP implementation groups, local WGFD offices, and local sage-grouse working groups will evaluate the metrics with the Adaptive Management Working Group on an annual basis. The purpose of these strategies is to address localized greater sage-grouse population and habitat changes by providing the framework in which management will change if monitoring identifies negative population and habitat anomalies in order to avoid crossing a hard trigger threshold. Soft triggers require immediate monitoring and surveillance to determine causal factors and may require curtailment of activities in the short or long term, as allowed by law. The project level adaptive management strategies will identify appropriate responses where the project's activities are identified as the causal factor. The management agency (BLM) and the Adaptive Management Work Group will implement an appropriate response strategy to address causal factors not attributable to a specific project or to make adjustments at a larger regional or statewide level. <u>Hard Trigger Response:</u> Hard triggers are indicators that management is not achieving desired conservation results. Hard triggers would be considered a catastrophic indicator that the species is not responding to conservation actions, or that a larger-scale impact or set of impacts is having a negative effect.	<u>Soft Triggers Response:</u> Soft triggers are indicators that management or specific activities may not be achieving the intended results of conservation action or that unanticipated changes to populations or habitats have occurred that have the potential to place habitats or populations at risk. The soft trigger is any deviation from normal trends in habitat or population in any given year. Metrics include, but are not limited to, annual lek counts, wing counts, aerial surveys, habitat monitoring, and DDCT evaluations. For population metrics, normal population trends are calculated as the 5-year running mean of annual population counts. BLM field offices, with the assistance of their respective land and RMP implementation groups, local WGFD offices, and local sage-grouse working groups will evaluate the metrics with the Adaptive Management Working Group on an annual basis. The purpose of these strategies is to address localized Greater Sage-Grouse population and habitat changes by providing the framework in which management will change if monitoring identifies negative population and habitat anomalies in order to avoid crossing a hard trigger threshold. Soft triggers require immediate monitoring and surveillance to determine causal factors and may require curtailment of activities in the short or long term, as allowed by law. The project level adaptive management strategies will identify appropriate responses where the project's activities are identified as the causal factor. The management agency (BLM) and the Adaptive Management Work Group will implement an appropriate response strategy to address causal factors not attributable to a specific project or to make adjustments at a larger regional or statewide level. <u>Hard Trigger Response:</u> Hard triggers are indicators that management is not achieving desired conservation results. Hard triggers would be considered a catastrophic indicator that the species is not responding to conservation actions, or that a larger-scale impact or set of impacts is having a negative effect. Within the range of normal population variables (5-year running mean of annual	(See above.)

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Within the range of normal population variables (5-year running mean of annual population counts), hard triggers shall be determined to take effect when two of the three metrics exceeds 60 percent of normal variability for the area under management in a single year, or when any of the three metrics exceeds 40 percent of normal variability for a 3 year time period within a 5-year range of analysis. A minimum of 3 consecutive years in a 5-year period is used to determine trends (i.e., years 1-2-3, years 2-3-4, years 3-4-5). Upon determination that a hard trigger has been tripped, the BLM will immediately defer issuance of discretionary authorizations for new actions within the Biologically Significant Unit for a period of 90 days. In addition, within 14 days of a determination that a hard trigger has been tripped, the Adaptive Management Work Group will convene to develop an interim response strategy and initiate an assessment to determine the causal factor or factors (hereafter called the causal factor assessment). In making amendments to this plan, the BLM will coordinate with the USFWS as BLM continues to meet its objective of protecting, restoring, and enhancing Greater Sage-Grouse habitat by reducing, minimizing or eliminating threats to that habitat. The hard and soft trigger data will be analyzed as soon as it becomes available after the signing of the ROD and then at a minimum, analyzed annually thereafter.	population counts), hard triggers shall be determined to take effect when two of the three metrics exceeds 60 percent of normal variability for the area under management in a single year, or when any of the three metrics exceeds 40 percent of normal variability for a 3 year time period within a 5-year range of analysis. A minimum of 3 consecutive years in a 5-year period is used to determine trends (i.e., years 1-2-3, years 2-3-4, years 3-4-5). Upon determination that a hard trigger has been tripped, the BLM will immediately defer issuance of discretionary authorizations for new actions within the Biologically Significant Unit for a period of 90 days. In addition, within 14 days of a determination that a hard trigger has been tripped, the Adaptive Management Work Group will convene to develop an interim response strategy and initiate an assessment to determine the causal factor or factors (hereafter called the causal factor assessment). The Adaptive Management Working Group would define a process to review and reverse adaptive management actions once the identified causal factor is resolved (e.g., returning to previous management once objectives of interim management strategy have been met). In making amendments to this plan, the BLM will coordinate with the USFWS as BLM continues to meet its objective of protecting, restoring, and enhancing Greater Sage-Grouse habitat by reducing, minimizing or eliminating threats to that habitat. The hard and soft trigger data will be analyzed as soon as it becomes available after the signing of the ROD and then at a minimum, analyzed annually thereafter.	(See above.)
MD 4145: Base future adjustments to the appropriate management level on monitoring information and multiple use considerations through development of and/or revisions to HMA Plans. Update HMA plans to include Greater Sage-Grouse objectives.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
*MD 4156: No similar action.	The BLM will update its Greater Sage-Grouse habitat management areas, including biologically significant units (BSUs), in conjunction with the State of Wyoming's core areas, upon issuance of any Wyoming Governor's Executive Order revising or amending the core area boundaries and upon completion of appropriate NEPA analysis and process. The BLM will complete the appropriate NEPA documentation (including appropriate public comment) prior to adopting any revised core area boundaries (e.g., maintenance action or plan amendment, environmental assessment, etc.).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
No similar action.	*MD 4157: Specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: Adopt the State of Wyoming's Greater Sage-Grouse Compensatory Mitigation Framework to the extent consistent with federal law, regulations, and policy. In all Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, when authorizing third-party actions in designated Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, the BLM will seek to achieve the planning-level Greater Sage-Grouse management goals and objectives through implementation of mitigation and management actions, consistent with valid existing rights and applicable law. Under this Plan Amendment, management would be consistent with the Greater Sage-Grouse goals and objectives, and in conformance with BLM Manual 6840, Special Status Species Management. In accordance with BLM Manual 6840, the BLM will undertake planning decisions, actions and authorizations "to minimize or eliminate threats affecting the status of [Greater Sage-Grouse] or to improve the condition of [Greater Sage-Grouse] habitat" across the planning area. Accordingly, before authorizing third-party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation, the BLM will complete the following steps, in alignment with the Governor of Wyoming's Executive Order 2015-4 (July 29, 2015): 1. Work jointly with the WGFD to evaluate projects and recommend mitigation in the form of avoidance and minimization. 2. The WGFD will determine if the State requires or recommends any additional	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
(See above.)	mitigation – including compensatory mitigation – under State regulations, policies, or programs related to the conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse. 3. Incorporate state required or recommended mitigation into the BLM's NEPA decision-making process, if the WGFD determines that compensatory mitigation is required to address impacts to GRSG habitat as a part of State policy or authorization, or if a proponent voluntarily offers mitigation. 4. Analyze whether the compensatory mitigation (deferring to the appropriate State authority to quantify habitat offsets, durability, and other aspects used to determine the recommended compensatory mitigation action): • achieves measurable outcomes for Greater Sage-Grouse habitat function on a landscape scale as determined by WGFD that are at least equal to the lost or degraded values in accordance with the Governor of Wyoming's Executive Order 2015-4. • provides benefits that are in place for at least the duration of the impacts. • accounts for a level of risk that the mitigation action may fail or not persist for the full duration of the impact 5. Ensure mitigation outcomes are consistent with the State of Wyoming's mitigation strategy and principles outlined in 2018 Approved RMPA Appendix C, The Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management Strategy. The BLM has determined that compensatory mitigation must be voluntary unless required by other applicable law and in recognition that State authorities may also require compensatory mitigation (IM 2019-018, <i>Compensatory Mitigation</i>, December 6, 2018). Therefore, consistent with valid existing rights and applicable law, when authorizing third-party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation, the BLM will consider voluntary compensatory mitigation actions only as a component of compliance with a State mitigation plan, program, or authority, or when offered voluntarily by a project proponent.	(See above.)

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
(See above.)	Project-specific analysis will be necessary to determine how a compensatory mitigation proposal addresses impacts from a proposed action. The BLM will cooperate with the State to determine appropriate project design and alignment with State policies and requirements, including those regarding compensatory mitigation. When the BLM is considering compensatory mitigation as a component of the project proponent's submission or based on a mitigation requirement from the State, the BLM's NEPA analysis would evaluate the need to avoid or minimize impacts of the proposed project and achieve the goals and objectives of this RMPA. The BLM will defer to the appropriate State authority to quantify habitat offsets, durability, and other aspects used to determine the recommended compensatory mitigation action.	(See above.)
MO LR:1.5: Effects of infrastructure projects, including siting, will be minimized using the best available science, updated as monitoring information on current infrastructure projects becomes available.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 6016: Retain approximately 1,072,653 acres of BLM-administered land. 14,283 acres of BLM-administered land are available for disposal by sale, exchange or other means (Map 3-21) (Appendix I, Land Disposal and Acquisition (p. 381)). Disposal can include none, some, or all of the mineral estate as allowed by 43 CFR 2720 and FLPMA Section 209(b)(1). A mineral potential report would determine if a surface estate disposal includes none, some, or all of the mineral estate. Lands classified as PHMAs and GHMAs for Greater Sage-Grouse will be retained in federal management unless: (1) the agency can demonstrate that disposal of the lands, including land exchanges, will provide a net conservation gain to the Greater Sage-Grouse or (2) the agency can demonstrate that the disposal of the lands, including land exchanges, will have no direct or indirect adverse impact on conservation of the Greater Sage-Grouse. Consider exceptions where there is mixed ownership. Allow land exchanges for additional or more contiguous federal ownership patterns within PHMAs. For PHMAs with minority federal ownership, include an additional, effective mitigation agreement for any disposal of federal land. Consider pursuing a permanent conservation easement as a final preservation measure. For lands in GHMAs that are identified for disposal, the BLM will only dispose of such lands consistent with the goals and objectives of this plan, including, but not limited to, the land use plan objective to maintain or increase Greater Sage-Grouse abundance and distribution. Note: All land actions to acquire or dispose of lands would require a site specific analysis under NEPA.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
**MD 6032: Designate ROW corridors as shown on Map 3-24. PHMAs are designated as avoidance areas for high voltage transmission line and pipeline ROWs. All authorizations in these areas must comply with the conservation measures outlined in this Approved RMP, including the RDFs and avoidance criteria presented in Appendix C, Required Design Features and Best Management Practices (p. 251). Within PHMAs, specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: New Transmission Lines (greater than 115 kV): New transmission lines greater than 115 kV in PHMA would be allowed only (1) when located within 0.5 miles or less of 115 kV or greater transmission lines constructed prior to 2008; or (2) in designated RMP corridors authorized for aboveground transmission lines. Transmission lines routed using one or more of the two criteria listed above will not be counted against the DDCT 5 percent disturbance cap. New transmission lines greater than 115 kV proposed outside of these areas would be considered where it can be demonstrated that declines in Greater Sage-Grouse populations could be avoided through project design and/or mitigation. These projects will be subject to the density and disturbance restrictions for PHMA. Review of transmission line proposals would incorporate the Framework for Sage-grouse Impact Analysis for Interstate Transmission Lines (BLM 2012b) and other appropriate documents consistent with the three routing criteria described above. New projects within PHMAs that may require future utility lines, including distribution and transmission lines or pipelines, would include the proposed utility lines in their DDCT as part of the proposed disturbance. Lines permitted, but not located in the above mentioned routes or a designated corridor will be counted toward the 5 percent disturbance calculation (line distance is equal to the anticipated construction footprint or construction ROW width multiplied by length and includes all access roads, staging area, and other surface disturbance	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
associated with construction outside of the construction ROW). New Electric Distribution Lines (less than 115 kV): Require burial of new electric distribution lines where economically feasible. If not economically feasible, distribution lines may be authorized when effectively designed/mitigated to protect Greater Sage-Grouse and when the authorized officer determines that overhead installation is the action alternative with the fewest adverse impacts while still meeting the project need. Consider agricultural and residential distribution lines to be adequately mitigated for Greater Sage-Grouse if constructed at least 0.6 mile from the lek perimeter with appropriate timing constraints and constructed to the latest APLIC standards. These ROW authorizations will be subject to approval by the State Director. Pipelines: Allow new pipelines through PHMAs: (1) within an RMP corridor currently authorized for that use or designated through future RMP amendments; or (2) constructed in or adjacent to existing utilities (buried and aboveground) or roads. Pipelines constructed in RMP corridors or adjacent to existing utilities or roads will require completion of a DDCT analysis for baseline data collection, but the project is not required to meet the threshold of 5 percent. However, within 6 months of the completion of construction, the project proponent will provide the authorized officer with as-built drawings so that the total disturbance within PHMAs can be calculated annually.	(See above.)	(See above.)

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 6033: Manage 637,154 acres as ROW avoidance areas (Map 3-24). Manage PHMAs as ROW avoidance areas for new ROW or SUA permits (317,307 acres). Within PHMAs where new ROWs/SUAs are necessary, locate new ROWs/SUAs within designated RMP corridors or adjacent to existing ROWs/SUAs where technically feasible. Subject to valid existing rights, including non-federal land inholdings, locate new, required ROWs/SUAs adjacent to existing ROWs/SUAs or where impacts to Greater Sage-Grouse are minimized. Work with proponents to design ROW applications to protect Greater Sage-Grouse.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 6046: Allow temporary closures to motorized vehicle use in areas that pose public health and safety risks, and/or where resource damage is imminent. In PHMAs and GHMAs, temporary closures will be considered in accordance with 43 CFR subpart 8364 (Closures and Restrictions); 43 CFR subpart 8351 (Designated National Area); 43 CFR subpart 6302 (Use of Wilderness Areas, Prohibited Acts, and Penalties); 43 CFR subpart 8341 (Conditions of Use). Temporary closure or restriction orders under these authorities are enacted at the discretion of the authorized officer to resolve management conflicts and protect persons, property, and public lands and resources. Where an authorized officer determines that off-highway vehicles are causing or will cause considerable adverse effects upon soil, vegetation, wildlife, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, historical resources, threatened or endangered species, wilderness suitability, other authorized uses, or other resources, the affected areas shall be immediately closed to the type(s) of vehicle causing the adverse effect until the adverse effects are eliminated and measures implemented to prevent recurrence. (43 CFR 8341.2) A closure or restriction order should be considered only after other management strategies and alternatives have been explored. The duration of temporary closure or restriction orders should be limited to 24 months or less; however, certain situations may require longer closures and/or iterative temporary closures. This may include closure of routes or areas.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
*MD 6059: Design recreational sites, recreation facility development, and recreational access to avoid riparian habitat areas or develop and manage them in a manner that minimizes effects on riparian habitats. Construction of recreation facilities within PHMA must conform with the avoidance and minimization measures of this plan. If it is determined that these conservation measures are inadequate for the conservation of Greater sage-grouse, the BLM will require and ensure compensatory mitigation that provides a net conservation gain to the species.	Design recreational sites, recreation facility development, and recreational access to avoid riparian habitat areas or develop and manage them in a manner that minimizes effects on riparian habitats. Construction of recreation facilities within PHMA must conform to the avoidance and minimization measures of this plan. If it is determined that these conservation measures are inadequate for the conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse, the BLM will consider mitigation is consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming's Executive Order 2015-4 (see also MD 4157).	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
**MD 6126: In cooperation, consultation, and coordination with permittees/lessees, cooperators, and interested public, develop and implement appropriate livestock grazing management actions to enhance land health, improve forage for livestock, and meet other multiple use objectives by using the <i>Wyoming Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management</i>, other appropriate BMPs (see Appendix C, <i>Required Design Features and Best Management Practices</i> (p. 251)), and development of appropriate range improvements. The BLM will prioritize (1) the review of grazing permits/leases, in particular to determine if modification is necessary prior to renewal, and (2) the processing of grazing permits/leases in PHMAs. In setting workload priorities, precedence will be given to existing permits/leases in areas not meeting Land Health Standards, with focus on allotments containing riparian areas or wet meadows. The BLM may use other criteria for prioritization to respond to urgent natural resource concerns (e.g., wildfire) and legal obligations. The BLM will collaborate with appropriate federal agencies, and the State of Wyoming as contemplated under EO 2013–3 (Wyoming Office of the Governor 2013), to 1) develop appropriate conservation objectives; (2) defined a framework for evaluating situations where Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives are not being achieved on federal land, to determine if a causal relationship exists between improper grazing (by wildlife or wild horses or livestock) and Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives; and 3) identify appropriate site-specific actions to achieve Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives within the framework.	In cooperation, consultation, and coordination with permittees/lessees, cooperators, and interested public, develop and implement appropriate livestock grazing management actions to enhance land health, improve forage for livestock, and meet other multiple use objectives by using the <i>Wyoming Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management</i>, other appropriate BMPs (see 2019 Wyoming GrSG ARMPA Appendix B, <i>Required Design Features and Best Management Practices</i>), and development of appropriate range improvements. The BLM will prioritize (1) the review of grazing permits/leases, in particular to determine if modification is necessary prior to renewal, and (2) the processing of grazing permits/leases in PHMAs. In setting workload priorities, precedence will be given to existing permits/leases in areas not meeting Land Health Standards, with focus on allotments containing riparian areas or wet meadows. The BLM may use other criteria for prioritization to respond to urgent natural resource concerns (e.g., wildfire) and legal obligations. The BLM will collaborate with appropriate federal agencies, and the State of Wyoming as contemplated under EO 2013–3 (Wyoming Office of the Governor 2013), to 1) develop appropriate conservation objectives; (2) defined a framework for evaluating situations where Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives are not being achieved on federal land, to determine if a causal relationship exists between improper grazing (by wildlife or wild horses or livestock) and Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives; and 3) identify appropriate site-specific actions to achieve Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives within the framework.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
*MD 6130: Utilize a rangeland health assessment, resource monitoring, or analysis to determine if livestock grazing adjustments in amounts, kinds, or season are necessary. The NEPA analysis for renewals and modifications of livestock grazing permits/leases that include lands within PHMAs will include specific management thresholds based on Greater Sage-Grouse	Utilize a rangeland health assessment, resource monitoring, or analysis to determine if livestock grazing adjustments in amounts, kinds, or season are necessary. Within PHMA, if monitoring data show the wildlife/special status species standard has not been met nor progress being made toward meeting that standard, there would be an evaluation and a determination made	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Habitat Objectives Table (Table 2.7, “Greater Sage-Grouse Seasonal Habitat Objectives” (p. 21)) and Land Health Standards (43 CFR 4180.2) and one or more defined responses that will allow the authorizing officer to make adjustments to livestock grazing that have already been subjected to NEPA analysis. Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Objectives Habitat Objectives Table (Table 2.7, “Greater Sage-Grouse Seasonal Habitat Objectives” (p. 21)), Land Health Standards (43 CFR 4180.2) and ecological site potential, and one or more defined responses that will allow the authorizing officer to make adjustments to livestock grazing that have already been subjected to NEPA analysis.	as to the cause. If it is determined that the current authorized livestock use is a significant causal factor in failing to achieve the wildlife/special status species standards, the BLM would address the achievement or progress toward achieving the LHSs (43 CFR 4180.2) and, if needed, Greater Sage-Grouse habitat maintenance or improvement. When NEPA analysis is required for a specific implementation action, one alternative would include mechanisms to make adjustments to meet or make progress toward meeting the wildlife/special status species standard. The analysis should also identify the BLM-approved data collection methodologies used for monitoring conditions and determining when adjustments are necessary. If current grazing management meets land health standards and provides for Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, there would be no need to analyze an alternative for Greater Sage-Grouse. Authorized uses in PHMA that incorporate habitat objectives for Greater Sage-Grouse must develop desired conditions based on Greater Sage-Grouse habitats present in the allotment and the ecological potential of sites that supports these habitats. Metrics used to monitor for objectives must be developed and inform the wildlife/SSS portion of the Standards for Healthy Rangelands. Within PHMA, seasonal habitat objectives for Greater Sage-Grouse apply only to those habitats delineated within an allotment during the specific season (e.g., breeding season objectives during breeding season). Data needed to inform the relationship between the authorized use and habitat condition would come from sample locations that appropriately reflect the impact of the authorized use on habitat conditions. Data points should fall within Greater Sage-Grouse seasonal habitat areas and be collected on ecological sites that have the potential to produce Greater Sage-Grouse habitat.	(See above.)

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 6142: Allotments within PHMAs, focusing on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows, will be prioritized for field checks to help ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the grazing permits. Field checks could include monitoring for actual use, utilization, and use supervision.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2.18.2 Relevant Appendices

The following table shows which appendices from the 2015 and 2019 plans have management direction that may change through this RMP amendment. If 2019 is not listed in the year, then no change was made to the appendix between the 2015 and 2019 plans. The 2015 Appendices can be found on [the Bighorn Basin RMP ePlanning website](#). The 2019 Appendices can be found on [the Wyoming GRSG ePlanning website](#).

ARMPA Appendix Name	Year	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
A: Maps	2015	Yes
A: Approved RMP Amendment with Management Goals, Objectives, and Decisions	2019	Yes
B: Oil and Gas Lease Notices and Lease Stipulations; including Exception, Modification, and Waiver Criteria	2015	Yes
C: Required Design Features and Best Management Practices	2015	Yes
B: Required Design Features	2019	Yes
D: Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management Strategy	2015	Yes
C: Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management Strategy	2019	Yes
E: Laws, Regulations, Policies, and Guidance	2015	No
F: Wyoming Bureau of Land Management Mitigation Guidelines for Surface-Disturbing and Disruptive Activities	2015	No
G: Federal Oil and Gas Operations on Split-Estate Lands	2015	No
H: Monitoring and Evaluation	2015	No
I: Land Disposal and Acquisition	2015	No
J: Recreation Management	2015	No
K: Biological Opinion	2015	No
L: Implementation	2015	No
M: Bighorn Basin Air Resource Management Plan	2015	No
N: Seasonal Raptor Stipulations for All Surface-Disturbing and Disruptive Activities	2015	No
O: Livestock Grazing	2015	No
P: Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision Crosswalk Tables	2015	No

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Appendix 2.19

Lander, Wyoming RMP Revisions

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2.19 LANDER, WYOMING RMP REVISIONS

This appendix presents the approved RMP revision language from the record of decision for the Lander RMP that relate to GRSG management. The table below notes which goals, objectives, appendices, and management decisions/actions have a potential to change as a result of the current planning effort and if so, under which alternatives changes are being considered. Note that any references to tables and appendices are to those applicable RMP appendices that are listed in **Section 2.19.2** of this appendix.

2.19.1 Existing GRSG RMP Management – Lander RMP Revisions

Table 1. Summary of Goals, Objectives, and Management Actions to the Lander RMP

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Land Use Plan Revisions/Amendments to the Lander RMP		
**MD 1015: Implement BLM National and Wyoming Reclamation Policies requiring the development of reclamation plans for all federal actions authorized, conducted, or funded by the BLM that disturb vegetation and/or the mineral/soil resources. Require that site-specific interim and final reclamation practices be developed and implemented that will meet the reclamation standards as identified in Appendix B (p. 185). The type and detail of the reclamation plan will be commensurate with the extent and duration of soil disturbance. For extensive disturbance such as a full-field oil and gas development, a detailed, multi-phase plan such as the Continental Divide Creston oil and gas project reclamation plan (attached as Appendix G to the Proposed RMP and Final EIS as an example) will be required.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
**MD 1016: Require a full reclamation bond specific to the site for all new disturbances in accordance with 43 CFR 3104.2, 3104.3, and 3104.5 or current policy. Ensure bonds are sufficient for costs relative to reclamation (Connelly et al. 2000; Hagen et al. 2007) that would result in restoration of disturbed lands in accordance with the final reclamation standards and objectives identified in Appendix B (p. 185). Base the reclamation costs on the assumption that contractors for the BLM will perform the work.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD 1017: Require that surface-disturbing activities minimize the surface disturbance footprint to the maximum extent possible to limit the areas requiring reclamation. Limit disturbance of desirable vegetative communities established during interim reclamation when implementing final reclamation.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 1018: Require that all reclamation plans identify the desired plant community for final reclamation.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 1019: Consider wildlife habitat objectives in all final reclamation objectives. In Core Area, final reclamation objectives will be to restore greater sage-grouse habitat. Include metrics to ensure that restoration goals are met.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 1020: Require site stabilization and sediment control in compliance with Wyoming Stormwater Discharge requirements and BLM reclamation policies.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
**MD 1021: Require that during and following reclamation activities, the land user is responsible for monitoring to help ensure interim and final reclamation success as defined in reclamation policies and with the standards identified in Appendix B (p. 185) is achieved. Require follow-up seeding and/or other corrective or remedial erosion-control measures on areas of surface disturbance, as appropriate and, if necessary, protecting the reclaimed landscape until reclamation standards have been achieved. Monitoring and follow-up reclamation practices will continue on interim and final reclaimed areas until the standards identified in Appendix B (p. 185) have been successfully achieved.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 1022: Identify areas with soil disturbance that were not successfully reclaimed. Priorities for reclamation of these areas are determined on a case-by-case basis with an emphasis on greater sage-grouse Core Area and other important wildlife habitat. Develop partnerships and funding sources to implement reclamation where no responsible party has the reclamation obligation.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
**MD 1023: Adapt reclamation methods to specific requirements based on plant communities within ecological sites and site-specific objectives. Incorporate reclamation objectives and require reclamation plans, including reclamation standards as identified in Appendix B (p. 185) on a site-specific basis.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 1024: Utilize management practices, including phased development and BMPs, to achieve reclamation success. Require Reclamation Objectives and Standards as identified in all reclamation plans.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
**MD 1025: Reclamation management practices will select native plant species based on site characteristics and ecological site descriptions. Reclamation success will be determined based on the criteria and standards identified in Appendix B (p. 185).	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 2001: Do not lease coal or oil shale-tar sands.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 2002: Incorporate proponent committed or BLM Required Design Features or mitigation such as BMPs as Conditions of Approval for any authorized mineral activity for federal minerals, regardless of surface ownership.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
2003 (MR: 1.3): In project-level EISs and EAs, require, on a case-by-case basis, the development of a wildlife resource monitoring and mitigation plan to address potential impacts from mineral development on wildlife populations and/or habitat.	Action was removed in 2019.	No change proposed.
MD 2004: Recommend for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry (Map 9) approximately 467,065 acres. (In addition, approximately 8,634 acres are withdrawn in pre-FLPMA actions that do not expire.) See decisions under resource programs such as wildlife, cultural, and recreation for specific details of acres recommended for withdrawals. A total of approximately 2,333,402 acres are open to locatable mineral entry (Map 9).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
2005 (MR:1.3): 1,411,095 acres of federal mineral estate are open to geothermal leasing with moderate constraints (Map 10). 603,633 acres of federal mineral estate are open to geothermal leasing with major constraints (Map 10). 714,545 acres of federal mineral estate are closed to geothermal leasing (Map 10).	Action was removed in 2019.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
2006 (MR:1.3): Constraints applied for oil and gas leasing also apply to geothermal leasing.	Action was removed in 2019.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 2008: Approximately 67,511 acres of federal mineral estate are open to oil and gas leasing subject only to standard lease stipulations (Map 11). Approximately 1,423,264 acres of federal mineral estate are open to oil and gas leasing subject to controlled surface use and/or timing limitation stipulations (Map 11 and Appendix I (p. 255)). Approximately 1,146,630 acres of federal mineral estate are open to oil and gas leasing subject to NSO stipulations (Map 11 and Appendix I (p. 255)). Approximately 172,071 acres of federal mineral estate are closed to oil and gas leasing (Map 11).	Approximately 80,198 acres of federal mineral estate are open to oil and gas leasing subject only to standard lease stipulations (Map 11). Approximately 1,419,568 acres of federal mineral estate are open to oil and gas leasing subject to controlled surface use and/or timing limitation stipulations (Map 11 and Appendix I (p. 255)). Approximately 1,137,666 acres of federal mineral estate are open to oil and gas leasing subject to NSO stipulations (Map 11 and Appendix I (p. 255)). Approximately 171,669 acres of federal mineral estate are closed to oil and gas leasing (Map 11).	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
MD 2009: All oil and gas and other mineral leases are subject to standard lease stipulations. Additional stipulations may apply as otherwise specified in this RMP. In areas that are closed to mineral leasing, do not re-offer existing leases when they expire. If drainage occurs in an area closed to oil and gas leasing, authorize leasing on a case-by-case basis with an NSO stipulation.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
MD 2010: For proposed actions in greater sage-grouse Core Area, determine whether a categorical exclusion is applicable and if so, closely examine the extraordinary circumstances, if applicable, to determine whether one or more exists that would require preparation of a NEPA analysis. If a categorical exclusion applies, and no extraordinary circumstances exist, determine whether preparing a NEPA analysis would help inform decision making.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 2011: Require unitization when deemed necessary for proper development and operation of an area or to facilitate more orderly (e.g., phased and/or clustered) development as a means of minimizing adverse impacts to resources, including greater sage-grouse, so long as the unitization plan adequately protects the rights of all parties, including the United States.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 2012: Disposal of produced water is authorized in accordance with Onshore Oil and Gas Order #7, Disposal of Produced Water, and in compliance with state regulations. If there is Wyoming Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permitted discharge, consider soil erosion, degradation of soil quality, sedimentation, and other factors in coordination with the State of Wyoming.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD 2013: The planning area is open to geophysical exploration except for lands identified as closed to mineral leasing or NSO to oil and gas leasing or as otherwise provided in other decisions. Geophysical exploration is subject to motorized travel limitations and restrictions on surface-disturbing and disruptive activities.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
MD 2017: Approximately 1,955,798 acres are open for mineral material disposal on a demand basis (Map 12) subject to resource protections. 853,303 acres are closed to mineral material disposal (Map 12).	Action was removed in 2019.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
MD 2018: Identify areas disturbed by expired mineral material sales, including free-use permits and community use pits. Prioritize reclamation of these sites, starting with those in greater sage-grouse Core Area where restoration as long-term greater sage-grouse habitat is possible. Next in priority are those in riparian-wetland areas, ACECs, the National Trails Management Corridor, VRM Class II areas, non-Core Area greater sage-grouse habitat, and wildlife migration corridors. Seek partnerships with others to complete restoration, including applicants seeking suitable offsite mitigation opportunities.	Action was removed in 2019.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
FM: 2: Manage fire and fuels to restore or maintain natural ecosystem functions, restore fire-adapted ecosystems, reduce losses from landscape-level wildland fire, and protect multiple-use values.	Action was removed in 2019.	No change proposed.
FM 2.6: Utilize fuels and vegetation treatments to maintain and enhance greater sage-grouse habitat where applicable.	Action was removed in 2019.	No change proposed.
MD 3004: In greater sage-grouse Core Area, prioritize suppression to conserve the habitat. Where applicable and technically feasible, apply greater sage-grouse BMPs such as those identified in Appendix E (p. 215).	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 3007: Use chemical, biological, and mechanical treatments to reduce the risk of landscape-level wildfire within priority areas. Alter fuel loading and improve ecological condition of vegetation communities. Consider the presence and potential for noxious and nonnative plant species when designing wildland fire response and fuels treatments.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 3008: Use personal use and commercial vegetation sale permits, where not otherwise constrained or prohibited (as identified in Records 4012, 6139, and 7045), for removal of firewood, post and pole, Christmas trees, sawlogs, and wildlings, for hazardous fuels management.	Use personal use and commercial vegetation sale permits, where not otherwise constrained or prohibited, for removal of firewood, post and pole, Christmas trees, sawlogs, and wildlings, for hazardous fuels management.	No change proposed.
MD 3009: Monitor fuels treatment and wildfire burn areas for sufficient time after treatment or fire event in order to determine short-term and long-term project success, detect weed infestations and accelerated soil erosion, and assess overall vegetation recovery. Utilize all available rehabilitation tools to control weed infestation and accelerated soil erosion. Implement post-treatment rest of treated areas from livestock grazing for two full growing seasons on all prescribed or wildland fire burn areas unless vegetation recovery dictates otherwise.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 3010: Partner with the University of Wyoming and other research entities to develop a greater understanding of the ecology and disturbance regime of sagebrush steppe, woodland, and forested vegetation communities found within the planning area. Use this information to develop a regionally specific scientific foundation for vegetation management activities.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 3011: Inventory the Fire Regime Condition Class (Map 14) of the vegetative communities found within the fire management units (Map 15). In coordination with stakeholders and in consideration of greater sage-grouse Core Area objectives, prioritize areas requiring treatment and utilize appropriate vegetation treatment techniques to improve the condition class across a landscape. Prioritize those projects in areas with the greatest benefits to wildlife and the highest likelihood of landscape-level wildfire.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 3012: Allow vegetation treatments in greater sage-grouse Core Area that conserve, enhance, or restore greater sage-grouse habitat excluding the use of prescribed fire unless specifically for the purpose of greater sage-grouse habitat improvement (this includes treatments that benefit livestock as part of an allotment management plan/conservation plan to improve greater sage-grouse habitat). In suitable habitat within greater sage-grouse Core Area, incorporate specific greater sage-grouse habitat objectives and apply appropriate seasonal restrictions for implementing vegetation management treatments. In identified greater sage-grouse winter concentration areas, vegetation treatments should emphasize strategically reducing wildfire risk around or in the winter concentration areas and maintaining winter concentration habitat quality. Prioritize restoration treatments in areas that are thought to limit greater sage-grouse distribution and/or abundance. Focus vegetation treatments outward from existing, intact greater sage-grouse habitat. Utilize BMPs, such as those in Appendix E (p. 215) and other current habitat management guidelines, when designing and implementing the project.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 3013: In suitable greater sage-grouse Core Area, do not reduce sagebrush canopy cover to less than 15 percent within a defined treatment polygon unless a vegetation management objective requires additional reduction in sagebrush cover to protect or to conserve habitat quality for greater sage-grouse or other sagebrush steppe obligate species. Maintain sagebrush and understory diversity (relative to ecological site description) unless such removal is necessary to achieve greater sage-grouse habitat management objectives. Remove conifers or reduce the density of conifers that have encroached into sagebrush plant communities.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 3014: Outside of greater sage-grouse Core Area, emphasize the reintroduction of fire into its natural role in the ecosystem in consideration of Decision Record 3016. Where possible, use wildland fire and prescribed fire to achieve management objectives, including reducing hazardous fuel loading, restoring vegetation communities, improving and/or protecting wildlife habitat, enhancing forage production, and addressing forest and woodland health issues such as pine beetle outbreaks.	Action was removed in 2019.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 3015: Cooperate with stakeholders to conduct landscape level treatments resulting in enhanced fuels management and/or restoration of fire-adapted ecosystems. In cooperation with stakeholders, manage to promote the growth and persistence of native shrubs, grasses, and forbs.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 3016: Limit the use of fire to treat areas receiving less than 12 inches of annual precipitation. Prescribed fire to reduce hazardous fuels or enhance land health in areas receiving less than 12 inches of annual precipitation could be utilized after exploring other potential treatment methods and in areas where the relative resistance and relative recovery rate of the site allows for the successful post-fire reestablishment of desired native vegetation.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 3017: Utilizing Required Design Features and BMPs applied as Conditions of Approval, establish fuels treatment projects at strategic locations to minimize the size of wildfires. Restore native or desirable plants and create landscape patterns to benefit wildlife. Power wash all fire vehicles including engines, water tenders, personnel vehicles, and OHVs after they have been in the field to help prevent the establishment or spread of invasive weeds.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4015: Identify unique plant communities and manage to protect, preserve, or enhance these communities.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4016: Manage vegetation communities for vegetative attributes described in NRCS Ecological Site Guides and to meet identified vegetative goals. When existing Ecological Site Descriptions have not been developed, are too general, or are not correct to serve adequately as benchmarks, identify and document local areas of similar potential within each specific ecological site that exemplify achievement of appropriate habitat objectives, and use these sites for the development of new reference sheets to be used as the benchmark reference.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4017: Use vegetation treatments to change plant community composition in a manner that achieves wildlife objectives, rangeland health objectives, and facilitates grazing management. Ensure that projects conform to resource objectives for the site.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MG BR:3: Manage for healthy native plant communities by reducing, preventing expansion of, or eliminating the occurrence of invasive nonnative species, undesirable vegetation, or noxious weeds, and predatory plant pests or disease by implementing decisions consistent with goals included in Partners Against Weeds and consistent with state and local weed management plans.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:3.1: Maintain adequate baseline information, and inventory and monitoring data, regarding the extent and control of invasive species. Evaluate effectiveness of decisions, and assess progress toward goals to improve invasive species management. Develop a prevention and early detection program.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:3.2: Coordinate with adjoining jurisdictions in management and control of invasive nonnative species across jurisdictional and political boundaries.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:3.3: Include provisions for invasive nonnative species management in all BLM-funded or authorized actions.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MG BR:4: Support internal and external education and awareness of noxious weeds.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:4.1: Develop and deploy educational and public awareness programs and materials in cooperation with other agencies and organizations.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MG BR:5: In all parts of the planning area, manage for the reduction, prevention, and halting the expansion of cheatgrass. Emphasize the prevention of invasive annual grass and woody plants in greater sage-grouse Core Area.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4020: Manage weed treatments to maintain and improve greater sage-grouse habitat. Apply Required Design Features and BMPs as Conditions of Approval, such as those in Appendix E (p. 215).	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4021: Require the use of certified noxious-weed free forage, mulch, and other land-applied products for BLM-authorized activities on BLM-administered lands.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 4022: Should invasive nonnative species become established in a location, develop and implement site-specific plans to eradicate/control invasive weeds for all surface-disturbing activities in the immediate vicinity. Priority for control will be: (1) Wyoming Declared Weed and Pest Species, (2) those weeds on the Western States Combined Declared Noxious Weed List, (3) those annual/biennial invasive weeds interfering with reclamation efforts, and (4) those invasive nonnative species interfering with a management objective.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4023: Require that equipment and vehicles used for BLM-authorized activities be cleaned for seeds of noxious weeds and invasive nonnative species before moving onto BLM-administered lands. Prohibit project vehicles accessing BLM-administered lands via cross-county travel from driving through infestations during access to the site. If the area on which BLM-authorized activities take place is identified as being a high risk for invasive and/or noxious weeds, require that vehicles be cleaned before leaving the worksite and include prescriptions for the disposal of wash water.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4024: Develop a plan to manage cheatgrass in coordination with other agencies and individuals, with the local County Weed & Pest Control Districts acting as the point of contact among all parties.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4025: If the Authorized Officer determines that BLM-authorized activities are contributing to the spread of noxious or invasive species, adjust the terms of the authorized activity to aid in the control of the species.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4026: If the Authorized Officer determines that livestock are likely carrying ingested seeds of invasive nonnative species, the Authorized Officer may require that livestock be flushed for weeds for a period of 72 hours before allowing livestock to move onto BLM-administered lands.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD 4027: Develop and implement a program promoting public awareness of Wyoming Declared Noxious Weeds and Pests as well as invasive nonnative species.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 4028: Identify riparian-wetland management actions to promote biodiversity and develop an implementation plan to incorporate actions into BLM-authorized activities. Manage riparian-wetland areas and wet meadows to achieve or maintain diverse species richness that includes a component of perennial forbs in conjunction with desirable riparian sedges, rushes, bulrushes, and grasses, as appropriate.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4029: Implement management actions to have riparian-wetland areas meet or exceed proper functioning conditions and Standard 2 of the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4035: Use an integrated management approach (mechanical, chemical, or biological treatments, prescribed fire, and grazing management techniques) to manipulate vegetative communities to achieve fish, wildlife, and watershed objectives. See the <i>Special Status Species</i> section for limitations on the use of prescribed fire in greater sage-grouse habitat.	Action was removed in 2019.	No change proposed.
MD 4041: The Dubois, Red Canyon, Lander Slope, and Green Mountain ACECs, greater sage-grouse Core Area, and the Sweetwater River watershed are priorities for management of fish and wildlife and their habitat. See the <i>Areas of Critical Environmental Concern</i> section for ACEC decisions. See the <i>Special Status Species – Wildlife</i> section for greater sage-grouse management.	Action was removed in 2019.	No change proposed.
MD 4051: Avoid the movement of water from one 4th level hydrologic unit code drainage to another 4th level hydrologic unit code drainage to prevent aquatic invasive species and disease transfer.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
**MD 4056: Outside of DDAs, wildlife seasonal protections for surface-disturbing and disruptive activities apply to maintenance and operations actions when the activity is determined to be detrimental to wildlife (see Appendix F (p. 229)). Reclamation of surface disturbance will be in accordance with Appendix B (p. 185) for non-DDAs.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4059: On a case-by-case basis, close and reclaim redundant roads to reduce road density and habitat fragmentation in coordination with adjacent landowners and/or state and county governments.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 4060: Manage wind-energy development on a case-by-case basis and in consideration of the resource values in big game crucial winter range, migration corridors, and parturition areas, raptor concentration areas, and other areas with wildlife values. Wind-energy management in greater sage-grouse Core Area is found in the <i>Special Status Species – Wildlife</i> section.	Action was removed in 2019.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD 4067: On a case-by-case basis, manage vegetation in identified crucial winter range and parturition areas to benefit the identified species (Maps 18-22).	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4069: Avoid authorizing road development in big game crucial winter range and parturition areas.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MG BR:13: Maintain and/or increase greater sage-grouse abundance and distribution by conserving, enhancing, or restoring the sagebrush ecosystem upon which populations depend, in cooperation with other conservation partners. Sustain the integrity of the sagebrush biome to provide the amount, continuity, and quality of habitat that is necessary to maintain sustainable populations of greater sage-grouse and other species by achieving the objectives below.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MO BR:13.1: Maintain large patches of high-quality sagebrush habitats with emphasis on patches occupied by greater sage-grouse.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:13.2: Maintain connections between sagebrush habitats, with emphasis on connections between habitats occupied by greater sage-grouse.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4072: Develop and implement protective measures for federally listed species in coordination with the USFWS. For proposed actions in greater sage-grouse Core Areas, determine whether a categorical exclusion is applicable and if so, closely examine the extraordinary circumstances, if applicable, to determine whether one or more exists that would require preparation of a NEPA analysis. If a categorical exclusion applies, and no extraordinary circumstances exist, determine whether preparing a NEPA analysis would help inform decision making. Continue to take action in cooperation with the USFWS to facilitate the recovery of threatened and endangered plant species that occur on BLM-administered land.	Action was removed in 2019.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 4074: Coordinate with agencies, including state and local governments, in the restoration, reintroduction, augmentation, or reestablishment of threatened, endangered, and other special status species populations and/or habitats.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4076: Develop site-specific measures for BLM-authorized activities to protect threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. Reduce the footprint of development and facilities to the smallest practical to protect special status species and their habitat. Incorporate Required Design Features and BMPs such as those identified in Appendix E (p. 215) as Conditions of Approval as appropriate for authorized activities to address adverse impacts to special status species.	Develop site-specific measures for BLM-authorized activities to protect threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. Reduce the footprint of development and facilities to the smallest practical to protect special status species and their habitat. Incorporate Required Design Features and BMPs such as those identified in Appendix E (p. 215) as conditions of approval as appropriate for authorized activities to address adverse impacts to special status species. Conditions of approval are called stipulations or terms and conditions in some programs.	No change proposed.
MD 4079: On a case-by-case basis, require surveys for BLM sensitive species as part of authorizing actions. Require protective actions when appropriate.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4080: Establish limits of acceptable cumulative habitat loss, including habitat modification, fragmentation, and loss of function, for special status species on a case-by-case basis. Limits of habitat loss and fragmentation for greater sage-grouse in Core Area are addressed in Decision Record 4109.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD 4096: Manage travel corridors for threatened and endangered species and BLM sensitive species on a case-by-case basis (Map 25). (Note: Only Canada lynx analysis units have been identified to date.) Manage permitted activities within travel corridors to avoid adverse impacts to sensitive species.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4097: To protect the concentration of special status species and their habitats, mineral and ROW actions in the Dubois area not within a WSA or an ACEC are managed as follows: • Closed to oil and gas leasing • Closed to geophysical exploration • Closed to phosphate leasing • Open to locatable minerals • Closed to mineral material disposals unless entirely contained within the 120 acres located in T41N, R107W, Sec. 1 N½SE¼ • Excluded to major ROWs • Avoided for minor ROWs	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
**MD 4098: Maintain sagebrush and understory diversity (relative to ecological site description) in seasonal greater sage-grouse and other sagebrush-obligate species habitats unless plant removal is necessary to achieve habitat management objectives. Vegetation treatments for greater sage-grouse would follow the “Wyoming Game and Fish Department Protocols for Treating Sagebrush to be Consistent with Wyoming Executive Order 2011-5; Greater Sage-Grouse Core Area Protection” (WGFD 2011) or the most current version or science available.	Maintain sagebrush and understory diversity (relative to ecological site description) in seasonal Greater Sage-Grouse and other sagebrush-obligate species habitats unless plant removal is necessary to achieve habitat management objectives. Vegetation treatments for Greater Sage-Grouse would follow the “Wyoming Game and Fish Department Protocols for Treating Sagebrush to be Consistent with Wyoming Executive Order 2015-4; Greater Sage-Grouse Core Area Protection” (WGFD 2015) or the most current version or science available.	No change proposed.
MD 4099: To minimize adverse impacts to greater sage-grouse from allowable uses, utilize recommendations and guidance from the following sources: • Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat-With Emphasis on Nesting and Early Brood Rearing • Sage-Grouse Habitat Management Guidelines for Wyoming • Studies in Avian Biology article “Ecology and Conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse: A Landscape Species and Its Habitats” • Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Strategy • Conservation Objectives Team Report • National Technical Team Report Utilize additional information as it becomes available.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4100: Maintain seeps, springs, wet meadows, and riparian vegetation in a functional and diverse condition for young greater sage-grouse and other species that depend on forbs and insects associated with these areas. Restore non-functioning riparian systems by repairing abnormally incised drainages to raise water tables and increase water storage and brood-rearing habitats within greater sage-grouse habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4101: Discourage the use of broad-spectrum insecticides where insect control is required. Target pest control toward key problem areas and schedule applications to be the smallest amount effective in greater sage-grouse brood-rearing areas.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 4102: Establish forage utilization levels in greater sage-grouse nesting habitat to ensure adequate cover remains.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4103: Except as otherwise provided in this RMP, greater sage-grouse Core Area is open to oil and gas and geothermal leasing, subject to standard stipulations for the protection of greater sage-grouse and other resources as described elsewhere in this RMP.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.
**MD 4104: Prohibit surface-disturbing or surface occupancy on or within a 0.6-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied greater sage-grouse leks in Core Area and on or within a 0.25-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied greater sage-grouse leks outside Core Area (Map 24). In Core Area, keep any new roads or road upgrades 1.9 miles from the perimeter of the lek.	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities or surface occupancy on or within a 0.6-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped) in Core Area and on or within a 0.25-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped) outside Core Area (Map 24). In Core Area, keep any new roads or road upgrades 1.9 miles from the perimeter of the lek (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped). The authorized officer may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis subject to appropriate site-specific analysis, mitigation requirements, and consultation with the State of Wyoming and consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming's Executive Order 2015-4) (see also MD 4134).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
**MD 4105: Prohibit surface-disturbing activities and/or disruptive activities from March 15 to June 30 in Core Area. Outside of Core Area, prohibit surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities from March 15 to June 30 within 2 miles of the perimeter of occupied leks (Map 24). Where credible data support different timeframes for these seasonal restrictions, dates may be expanded 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates.	Prohibit surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities from March 15 to June 30 in Core Area. Outside of Core Area, prohibit surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities from March 15 to June 30 within 2 miles of the perimeter of occupied leks (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped) (Map 24). The authorized officer may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis subject to appropriate site-specific analysis, mitigation requirements, and consultation with the State of Wyoming and consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming's Executive Order 2015-4) (see also MD 4134). Where credible data support different timeframes for these seasonal restrictions, dates may be expanded 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
**MD 4106: Consistent with the BLM's regulatory authority over locatable mineral exploration and development, prohibit surface disturbance or disruptive activities from notice-level activity under 43 CFR 3809.320 in Core Area during the period March 15 to June 30.	Consistent with the BLM's regulatory authority over locatable mineral exploration and development, prohibit surface disturbance or disruptive activities from notice-level activity under 43 CFR 3809.320 in Core Area during the period March 15 to June 30. The authorized officer may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis subject to appropriate site-specific analysis, mitigation requirements, and consultation with the State of Wyoming and consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming's Executive Order 2015-4) (see also MD 4134).	Potential change under Alternative 3.
**MD 4107: Prohibit disruptive activities between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m. from March 1 to May 15 on or within a 0.6-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied greater sage-grouse leks in Core Area (Map 24).	Prohibit disruptive activities between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m. from March 1 to May 15 on or within a 0.6-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped) in Core Area (Map 24). The authorized officer may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis subject to appropriate site-specific analysis, mitigation requirements, and consultation with the State of Wyoming and consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming's Executive Order 2015-4) (see also MD 4134).	No change proposed.
**MD 4108: Prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities in greater sage-grouse winter concentration areas, as they are identified, from December 1 to March 14 unless data indicate a date modification is necessary to better protect wintering greater sage-grouse.	Prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities in Greater Sage-Grouse winter concentration areas, as they are identified, from December 1 to March 14 unless data indicate a date modification is necessary to better protect wintering Greater Sage-Grouse. The authorized officer may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis subject to appropriate site-specific analysis, mitigation requirements, and consultation with the State of Wyoming and consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming's Executive Order 2015-4) (see also MD 4134). Protection of additional mapped winter concentration areas in GHMA would be implemented where winter concentration areas are mapped and designated by the State of Wyoming. Appropriate seasonal timing restrictions and habitat protection measures would be considered and evaluated in consultation with the WGFD in all identified winter concentration areas.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 4109: In greater sage-grouse Core Area, limit the density of disturbance of an activity (oil and gas or mining) to an average of one site per square mile (640 acres) within the DDCT. The one location and cumulative value of existing disturbances will not exceed 5 percent of suitable habitat of the DDCT area. Utilize the most current greater sage-grouse density disturbance process or other state and/or federal agreed-upon process for compliance evaluations.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD 4110: If in order to accommodate valid existing rights, the new disturbance for a ROW in greater sage-grouse Core Area coupled with existing disturbance would exceed 5 percent of suitable habitat within the DDCT area (see current guidance with respect to disturbance calculations), then additional effective mitigation is necessary to offset the resulting loss of greater sage-grouse habitat. Interim reclamation following construction of the ROW and final reclamation following the relinquishment of the ROW will ensure reestablishment of the predisturbance greater sage-grouse habitat, with the reclamation bond amount set in consideration of this reclamation obligation. These ROW authorizations will be subject to approval by the State Director.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD 4111: In Core Area, major overhead powerlines will not be authorized unless co-located with an existing 115 kilovolt or greater powerline, as close as technically feasible, not to exceed 0.5 miles or within a designated corridor authorized for overhead powerlines. Distribution lines may be authorized when effectively mitigated to protect greater sage-grouse and the Authorized Officer determines that overhead installation is the action alternative with the fewest adverse impacts. Agricultural and residential lines will be considered to be adequately mitigated for greater sage-grouse if constructed at least 0.6 mile from the lek perimeter with appropriate timing constraints and installation of raptor deterrents. These ROW authorizations will be subject to approval by the State Director.	In Core Area, major overhead powerlines will not be authorized unless co-located with an existing 115 kilovolt or greater powerline, as close as technically feasible not to exceed 0.5 miles or within a designated corridor authorized for overhead powerlines. Distribution lines may be authorized when effectively mitigated to protect Greater Sage-Grouse and the Authorized Officer determines that overhead installation is the action alternative with the fewest adverse impacts. Agricultural and residential lines will be considered to be adequately mitigated for Greater Sage-Grouse if constructed at least 0.6 mile from the lek perimeter (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped) with appropriate timing constraints and installation of raptor deterrents. These ROW authorizations will be subject to approval by the State Director.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD 4112: Until research on impacts of wind energy to greater sage-grouse is completed and adequate mitigation can be developed, exclude wind-energy development in Core Area.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 4113: Allow livestock water development projects in greater sage-grouse nesting habitat. Consistent with the intent of greater sage-grouse Core Area management, such projects will only be allowed if they will contribute to improved greater sage-grouse habitat, developments can be designed to be compatible with greater sage-grouse, and they are part of a comprehensive grazing strategy.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD 4114: The BLM will collaborate with appropriate federal agencies and the State of Wyoming, as contemplated under the Wyoming Governor's Executive Order 2013-3, to: 1) develop appropriate conservation objectives; 2) define a framework for evaluating situations where greater sage-grouse conservation objectives are not being achieved on federal land, to determine if a significant causal relationship exists between improper grazing (by wildlife or wild horses or livestock) and greater sage-grouse conservation objectives; and 3) identify appropriate site-based actions to achieve greater sage-grouse conservation objectives within the framework.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD 4115: In cooperation with stakeholders, design and locate fences, so as not to disturb important greater sage-grouse habitat areas. When fences are authorized, require a design that has the fewest adverse impacts to greater sage-grouse, including features to reduce greater sage-grouse strikes and mortality. Require the installation of fence markers on wire fences constructed in greater sage-grouse habitat to increase fence visibility and reduce collision potential. Remove, modify, or mark fences with high-risk for collision.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4116: New permanent, high-profile structures within greater sage-grouse nesting habitat will be allowed on a case-by-case basis. Require the installation of anti-perching devices on appropriate structures to reduce predation opportunities.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
*MD 4117: Limit noise sources to 10 decibels above ambient noise measured at the perimeter of occupied greater sage-grouse leks from March 1 to May 15, unless scientific findings indicate a different noise level is appropriate. In addition, limit noise sources in other important greater sage-grouse habitats if research and/or policy indicate the need.	Within PHMA (core only), new project noise levels, either individual or cumulative, should not exceed 10 dBA (as measured by L50) above baseline noise at the perimeter of the lek (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped) from 6:00 pm to 8:00 am during the breeding season (March 1–May 15). The authorized officer may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis subject to appropriate site-specific analysis, mitigation requirements, and consultation with the State of Wyoming and consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming’s Executive Order 2015-4) (see MD 4134). In coordination with the State of Wyoming, specific noise protocols for measurement and implementation will be developed as additional research and information emerges. These measures would be considered at the site-specific project level where and when appropriate.	No change proposed.
MD 4118: To minimize raptor use, require anti-perching devices on new overhead powerlines in greater sage-grouse Core Area. Require anti-perching devices on new overhead powerlines and wind energy meteorological towers in prairie dog, mountain plover, and pygmy rabbit habitats on a case-by-case basis. Work with ROW holders to install anti-perching devices on existing powerlines in these habitats.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD 4119: Allow above ground low voltage utility lines or require burying lines in greater sage-grouse, prairie dog, mountain plover, and pygmy rabbit habitats on a case-by-case basis. Evaluate and take advantage of opportunities such as the renewal of existing ROWs to remove or modify existing powerlines, prioritizing greater sage-grouse Core Area.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD 4120: In order to avoid surface-disturbing activities in Core Areas, priority will be given to development of oil and gas and other mineral resources outside of Core Areas, subject to applicable stipulations. When authorizing development of oil and gas and other mineral resources in core habitat, subject to applicable stipulations for the conservation of greater sage-grouse, priority will be given to development in non-habitat areas first and then in the least suitable habitat for greater sage-grouse.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 4129: Update the Herd Area Management Plan as needed to meet herd health objectives, including Appropriate Management Levels, and to address impacts to other resources. Consider forage competition and evaluate overall utilization levels by all grazing animals, and incorporate greater sage-grouse habitat management objectives.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
No similar action.	*MD 4133: The BLM will update its Greater Sage-Grouse habitat management areas, including biologically significant units (BSUs), in conjunction with the State of Wyoming's core areas, upon issuance of any Wyoming Governor's Executive Order revising or amending the core area boundaries and upon completion of appropriate NEPA analysis and process. The BLM will complete the appropriate NEPA documentation (including appropriate public comment) prior to adopting any revised core area boundaries (e.g., maintenance action or plan amendment, environmental assessment, etc.).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
No similar action.	*MD 4134: Specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: Adopt the State of Wyoming's Greater Sage-Grouse Compensatory Mitigation Framework to the extent consistent with federal law, regulations, and policy. In all Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, when authorizing third-party actions in designated Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, the BLM will seek to achieve the planning-level Greater Sage-Grouse management goals and objectives through implementation of mitigation and management actions, consistent with valid existing rights and applicable law. Under this Plan Amendment, management would be consistent with the Greater Sage-Grouse goals and objectives, and in conformance with BLM Manual 6840, Special Status Species Management. In accordance with BLM Manual 6840, the BLM will undertake planning decisions, actions and authorizations "to minimize or eliminate threats affecting the status of [Greater Sage-Grouse] or to improve the condition of [Greater Sage-Grouse] habitat" across the planning area. Accordingly, before authorizing third-party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation, the BLM will complete the	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
(See above.)	following steps, in alignment with the Governor of Wyoming's Executive Order 2015-4 (July 29, 2015): 1. Work jointly with the WGFD to evaluate projects and recommend mitigation in the form of avoidance and minimization. 2. The WGFD will determine if the State requires or recommends any additional mitigation – including compensatory mitigation – under State regulations, policies, or programs related to the conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse. 3. Incorporate state required or recommended mitigation into the BLM's NEPA decision-making process, if the WGFD determines that compensatory mitigation is required to address impacts to GRSG habitat as a part of State policy or authorization, or if a proponent voluntarily offers mitigation. 4. Analyze whether the compensatory mitigation (deferring to the appropriate State authority to quantify habitat offsets, durability, and other aspects used to determine the recommended compensatory mitigation action): • achieves measurable outcomes for Greater Sage-Grouse habitat function on a landscape scale as determined by WGFD that are at least equal to the lost or degraded values in accordance with the Governor of Wyoming's Executive Order 2015-4. • provides benefits that are in place for at least the duration of the impacts. • accounts for a level of risk that the mitigation action may fail or not persist for the full duration of the impact. 5. Ensure mitigation outcomes are consistent with the State of Wyoming's mitigation strategy and principles outlined in 2019 Wyoming GrSG ARMPA Appendix C, The Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management Strategy. The BLM has determined that compensatory mitigation must be voluntary unless required by other applicable law and in recognition that State authorities may also require compensatory mitigation (IM 2019-018, <i>Compensatory Mitigation</i>, December 6, 2018). Therefore, consistent with valid existing rights and applicable law, when authorizing	(See above.)

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
(See above.)	third-party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation, the BLM will consider voluntary compensatory mitigation actions only as a component of compliance with a State mitigation plan, program, or authority, or when offered voluntarily by a project proponent. Project-specific analysis will be necessary to determine how a compensatory mitigation proposal addresses impacts from a proposed action. The BLM will cooperate with the State to determine appropriate project design and alignment with State policies and requirements, including those regarding compensatory mitigation. When the BLM is considering compensatory mitigation as a component of the project proponent's submission or based on a mitigation requirement from the State, the BLM's NEPA analysis would evaluate the need to avoid or minimize impacts of the proposed project and achieve the goals and objectives of this RMPA. The BLM will defer to the appropriate State authority to quantify habitat offsets, durability, and other aspects used to determine the recommended compensatory mitigation action.	(See above.)
MD 6001: Respond to specific proposals for land use authorizations on a case-by-case basis. Do not classify, open, or make available any BLM-administered lands for agricultural leasing or agricultural entry under either Desert Land Entry or Indian Allotment for one or more of the following reasons: unsuitable topography, presence of sensitive resources or resource conflicts, lack of water or access, small parcel size, or unsuitable soils.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 6002: Identify lands for acquisition through exchange and/or purchase with a priority on meeting special management objectives such as greater sage-grouse Core Area, ACECs, and National Landscape Conservation System lands. Prioritize lands for acquisition that do not have split-estate unless in Core Area where greater sage-grouse management objectives would benefit greater sage-grouse conservation. Lands and/or interests in lands acquired, and former withdrawn lands relinquished would be managed in a manner consistent with adjacent or nearby BLM-administered land including surface and mineral estate management and pursuing withdrawals as appropriate, unless otherwise addressed through further land use planning actions. Subject to further NEPA analysis.	Action was removed in 2019.	No change proposed.
MD 6003: Continue to administer lands leased under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. Respond to requests for additional Recreation and Public Purposes Act leases.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 6005: No parcels within a National Landscape Conservation System unit, including the National Trails Management Corridor or an ACEC, or in greater sage-grouse Core Area, are identified for disposal unless the disposal would benefit the goals and objectives of the area's priority values or other important resource values. Acquire lands in areas with mixed ownership and where land exchanges would result in additional or more contiguous federal ownership patterns or would improve management for the benefit of priority resources as identified in other decisions such as ACECs.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 6011: Management prescriptions for wind-energy development in important wildlife habitat, areas managed as VRM Classes I and II, RMZs, areas with cultural resources, and special designations are found in those respective sections.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD 6012: Implement the programmatic policies and BMPs for wind-energy development as identified in the ROD for Wind-Energy Development on Bureau of Land Management-Administered Land in the Western States (BLM 2005b) and Instruction Memorandum 2009-043 or subsequent guidance as part of any wind-energy authorization.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 6015: Programmatic policies, BMPs, leasing procedures, and stipulations identified in the ROD for the Programmatic EIS for Geothermal Leasing in the Western United States (BLM and Forest Service 2008) are analyzed in the <i>Minerals</i> section.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
**MD 6016: Manage 1,279,633 acres as ROW avoidance areas (Map 33). See Appendix C (p. 191) for avoidance criteria. Manage 576,458 acres as ROW exclusion areas (Map 33). Manage 538,110 acres as open to ROW (Map 33).	Manage 1,282,773 acres as ROW avoidance areas (Map 33). See 2014 Lander RMP Appendix C (p. 191) for avoidance criteria. Manage 567,476 acres as ROW exclusion areas (Map 33). Manage 543,961 acres as open to ROW (Map 33).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD 6017: The Beef Gap section of the Sweetwater Rocks Complex (the gap between the Split Rock and the Miller Springs WSAs [Map 44]) is closed to any new ROWs even if co-located with existing ROWs.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 6018: Energy Corridor 79-216 is a designated corridor (Map 34).	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 6019: The following are designated corridors for major ROW development (Map 34) open for above and/or below ground ROWs as indicated. The location of the designated corridors as represented on the map is approximate and subject to verification based on existing disturbance, particularly in the Sand Draw to Casper corridor through the Gas Hills mining district and the Lost Creek corridor north and south of Jeffrey City. The corridor widths displayed on Map 34 are overstated to improve clarity. The specific location of the designated corridors is based on the existing ROW. The Lost Creek Corridor, for example, is the area adjacent to the Lost Creek pipeline. These locations are subject to on-the-ground verification which will be reflected on updated iterations of Map 34. • Jim Bridger (containing the Spence-Mustang-Jim Bridger existing 230 kV powerline) from where it enters the Lander planning area in Township 25 North, Range 94 West to where it intersects with the Lost Creek pipeline: above and below ground • Lost Creek: variously below ground only and above and below ground as follows: ○ Lost Creek 1: from where the pipeline enters the Lander planning area in the south in Township 25 North, Range 93 West to where the pipeline meets the existing 230 kV powerline in the Jim Bridger corridor: below ground only	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
○ Lost Creek 2: from the Jim Bridger meeting point northward until the Lost Creek pipeline meets the Sand Draw to Casper designated corridor: above and below ground. The section of the corridor through the Jeffrey City area that is not within the National Trails Management Corridor is open to oil and gas leasing subject to CSU stipulations ○ Lost Creek 3: from the Sand Draw to Casper meeting point north to Highway 20/26: below ground only ○ Lost Creek 4: from north of Highway 20/26 to the Westwide Corridor: above and below ground • Pathfinder: below ground only. (The Pathfinder corridor is only in the Lander planning area in Township 30 North, Range 85 West.) • Sand Draw to Casper: above and below ground • Highway 20/26: above and below ground • Beaver Creek (formerly called Beaver Creek North and Lost Creek Spur): below ground only • Shoshoni/Badwater: below ground • Bairoil: below ground only • Sand Draw: below ground only • Bison Basin: below ground only • Frontier going southwest from the Bairoil corridor to where it leaves the Lander planning area: below ground only • Rattlesnake Hills (formerly called Frontier-Anadarko) north of Black Rock: below ground • Black Rock (formerly called Pacificorp): above and below ground • Pacificorp (going east-west in Township 35): above and below ground Widths for these corridors are 0.5 mile unless there are resource conflicts, then the construction ROW width will be adjusted accordingly. Within these corridors, new facilities will be constructed adjacent to existing linear facilities and overlapping existing ROWs where feasible, recognizing the need for adequate separation for operating system integrity, safety (construction and operation), appropriate local, state, and federal policies, regulations and laws, and land-use constraints. Designated corridors are subject to the	(See above.)	(See above.)

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
prescriptions for resource protections except that they are open for ROWs even if the surrounding areas are excluded or avoided. Management prescriptions for ROWs are found in other resource areas such as Special Designations.	(See above.)	(See above.)
MD 6020: The preferred location for new ROWs and access route authorizations is in areas already disturbed by existing ROWs. See Appendix E (p. 215) for design constraints to limit surface disturbance associated with new ROWs. Identify opportunities to reclaim duplicative ROWs or those no longer in use.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 6021: Utilize the most current greater sage-grouse density disturbance process or other state/federal agreed-upon process for compliance evaluations.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 6022: Locate linear ROWs such as fiber optic and low-voltage powerline corridors along currently established road systems (for example, state highways and county roads).	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 6024: Lands that are available to oil and gas leasing are available to carbon dioxide sequestration and research subject to the same surface limitations as would be applied to oil and gas operations. Lands that are closed to oil and gas leasing are excluded for carbon dioxide sequestration and research.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 6029: Grant administrative use authorizations on a case-by-case basis with approval from the Authorized Officer. All access agreements will specify the following: what type of use is allowed and for what purpose, times, dates or seasons of access, where the use will occur, and additional stipulations required to provide for adequate resource protection and to meet pertinent planning decisions.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 6050: Livestock grazing in the planning area (Map 38) is managed as follows: • 2,323,152 acres are open to grazing • 7,665 acres are closed to grazing • 63,393 acres are unavailable to grazing	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 6052: In cooperation, consultation, and coordination with permittees/lessees, cooperators, and stakeholders including interested parties, develop and implement appropriate livestock grazing management actions to achieve the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands, improve forage for livestock, and enhance rangeland health. Within greater sage-grouse Core Area, incorporate greater sage-grouse habitat objectives and management considerations into all BLM grazing allotments containing greater sage-grouse habitat through Allotment Management Plans or permit renewals. Consider the application of BMPs for the protection of greater sage-grouse as terms and conditions of grazing permit/lease renewals. In areas where Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands are not being met or are not making progress toward meeting standards, because of current livestock grazing, modify existing permits or condition the issuance of new permits on the implementation of new grazing strategies to meet standards in accordance with grazing regulations. Apply appropriate BMPs as terms and conditions of the permit.	Action was removed in 2019.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD 6054: Conduct grazing program monitoring (see Glossary) of allotments by focusing on Category I allotments in order of priority starting with those allotments that have degraded riparian-wetland areas or are in whole or in part in greater sage-grouse Core Area. Modify BLM-authorized grazing use on an allotment-by-allotment basis to protect soil, water, vegetative resources, and wildlife.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD 6055: When a permittee or lessee voluntarily takes non-use of their grazing preference in a specific grazing allotment, permit annual periods of non-use of grazing preference, without penalty, on a case-by-case basis when the advantage to greater sage-grouse habitat or other resource values warrant.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD 6056: Include terms and conditions on grazing permits and leases that ensure plant growth requirements are met and that adequate forage remains available for greater sage-grouse hiding cover as necessary. Do not permit new range improvement projects within 500 feet of water and riparian-wetland areas except to benefit watershed health or vegetation. Develop project-specific BMPs that become terms and conditions of the grazing permit.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 6057: Locate supplements such as minerals and salt in a manner designed to conserve, enhance, or restore greater sage-grouse habitat.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6..
MD 6058: Prioritize completion of land health assessments and processing of grazing permits within greater sage-grouse Core Area and on allotments with riparian-wetland areas not achieving or making significant progress towards proper functioning condition. Emphasize allotments that have the best opportunities for riparian-wetland improvement or for conserving, enhancing, or restoring habitat for greater sage-grouse. When conducting land health assessments, include indicators and measurements of structure, condition, and composition of vegetation specific to achieving greater sage-grouse habitat objectives. If local/state seasonal habitat objectives are not available, use greater sage-grouse habitat recommendations from Connelly et al. 2000 and Hagen et al. 2007 or updated research findings.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD 6059: Work cooperatively with permittees, lessees, and other landowners to develop comprehensive grazing management strategies to develop site-specific objectives to conserve, enhance, or restore greater sage-grouse Core Area and general habitat areas. Develop a comprehensive grazing strategy to achieve these objectives. In Core Area, monitor measurable objectives in representative sites and evaluate grazing management to ensure that decisions are achieving greater sage-grouse habitat objectives.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD 6060: Monitor precipitation and vegetative production trends on BLM-administered lands as a tool to understand impacts to soil, water, and vegetative resources. Monitor measurable objectives and evaluate grazing management to confirm that decisions are achieving greater sage-grouse habitat objectives.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD 6061: Allotments are categorized as M, I, and C (see Appendix G (p. 231)). Re-categorize as appropriate during livestock grazing permit renewals.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 6062: When livestock grazing permits and/or grazing preference are voluntarily relinquished in portions of or all of an allotment, analyze suitable livestock grazing management, including closure to livestock grazing where appropriate, based on benefits to resources and other uses.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 6063: Establish stocking rates in areas preferred by livestock that allow for appropriate utilization levels by livestock, adjusted for the anticipated intensity of use necessary to provide sufficient forage and cover to support and maintain healthy, diverse wildlife and wild horse populations and to achieve the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands. Utilization levels may vary based on the implementation of a comprehensive grazing strategy or as needed to achieve vegetation objectives.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 6064: Prioritize the management of hot-season grazing on riparian-wetland and meadow complexes to promote recovery or maintenance of key vegetation species appropriate for the ecological site and water quality through the use of comprehensive grazing strategies (see Glossary) as identified in Appendix G (p. 231). In areas of continuous season-long grazing where rangeland health standards are not met, modify existing grazing permits to incorporate rest and/or deferment of grazing to facilitate rangeland health recovery and attainment of rangeland health standards.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 6065: Continue implementation of existing allotment management plans. Develop and implement new comprehensive grazing strategies and Allotment Management Plans with grazing permittees/lessees and interested public to achieve desired resource goals. Grant administrative use authorizations on a case-by-case basis with approval from the Authorized Officer. All administrative use agreements will specify the following: what type of use is allowed and for what purpose; times, dates or seasons of access; where the use will occur; and additional stipulations required to provide for adequate resource protection and to meet planning decisions.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 6066: Utilizing Required Design Features and BMPs such as those in Appendix E (p. 215) applied as Conditions of Approval, develop and install range improvement projects necessary to implement comprehensive grazing strategies which will lead to improved rangeland health, or to enhance successful comprehensive grazing strategies already in place. Benefits associated with the projected improvement in rangeland health should exceed the adverse impacts associated with the project infrastructure. Avoid projects that would expand grazing on the landscape without a clear link to a comprehensive grazing strategy and consideration of other resources.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD 6067: Evaluate existing project infrastructure in the development of comprehensive grazing strategies. In consultation with the livestock grazing permittees authorized to use the allotment, identify projects that are no longer necessary, or that are contributing to adverse impacts to other resources, and modify or remove projects as appropriate to mitigate impacts. Evaluate whether the infrastructure contributes to the introduction or spread of invasive nonnative species, and develop mitigation (including removal of infrastructure) to reduce or eliminate weed infestation and spread.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 6068: Remove or modify fences and cattleguards on a case-by-case basis to enhance other resource values and to facilitate livestock, wild horses, and wildlife movement and management.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 6069: Establish and manage future forage reserves as opportunities arise within the planning area on a voluntary basis or as lands are acquired.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 6070: Retain designated stock driveways. Permit other livestock trails on a case-by-case basis.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 6071: Require that forage supplements have label information stating that the material is safe/compatible for sheep, wildlife, and wild horses in areas where their ranges overlap. Require that all forage supplement labels be submitted to the field office for approval by the Authorized Officer prior to use.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 6072: Prohibit placement of salt and mineral supplements, such as low-moisture block supplements, in the following areas: • Within 0.5 mile of water and riparian-wetland areas • Within 0.6 mile of the perimeter of occupied greater sage-grouse leks • Within 0.5 mile of areas being reclaimed from surface disturbance	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD 6073: Modify or implement livestock grazing management (Appendix G (p. 231)) to facilitate successful reclamation efforts.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 6074: Determine livestock grazing management for acquired lands consistent with the management objectives for the acquisition or for the area in which the land is located, for example, an ACEC, WSA, or within the National Trails Management Corridor.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 6077: In greater sage-grouse Core Area, authorize Special Recreation Permits that, through mitigation or design, will have neutral or beneficial impacts to greater sage-grouse.	Action was removed in 2019.	No change proposed.
MD 6090: Sustain or enhance the Johnny Behind the Rocks RMZ (4,828 acres) for nonmotorized recreationists to engage in horseback riding, hiking, trail running, wildlife viewing, and mountain biking so that participants in visitor assessments/surveys report a higher than average (mean average of 4.0 on a 5-point scale) realization of the following experience and benefit outcomes: • Experiences: Enjoying the sensory experience of a natural landscape, enjoying exercise and physical fitness, developing skills and abilities, enjoying having access to close to home outdoor amenities, and feeling that this community is a special place to live. • Benefits: Improved mental and physical health, greater connection to nature, improved opportunity to view wildlife close up, greater sense of place, improved outdoor recreation skills, heightened sense of satisfaction with our community, and reduced adverse human impacts such as litter, vegetative trampling, and unplanned trails.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 6091: Create and maintain the following desired future recreation setting qualities in the Johnny Behind the Rocks RMZ: • Physical Recreation Setting: The natural setting may have subtle modifications that would be noticed but not draw the attention of the casual observer wandering through the area. Facility and trail development will focus on sufficient densities and developments to provide for a full day (6 to 8 hours or up to 40 miles of trail) of use. Non-trail facilities and structures will continue to be rare and co-located within close proximity to the highway/parking area. • Social Recreation Setting: Usually 3-6 encounters per day off travel routes and 7-15 encounters per day on travel routes. Group size is usually small. • Operational Recreation Setting: Excluding the adjacent highway, the Blue Ridge Road, and livestock permittee access to range improvements; the area will be managed for mountain bikes and other nonmotorized use(s). Mechanized/motorized trail building will be approved as needed to support the identified outcome objective. Onsite controls and services will be present, but harmonize with the natural environment.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 6092: Mineral and ROW actions in the Johnny Behind the Rocks RMZ are managed with the following restrictions: • Oil and gas leasing subject to NSO • Closed to geophysical exploration • Closed to phosphate exploration • Recommend for withdrawal to locatable mineral entry • Closed to mineral material sales • Excluded from ROW actions	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 6093: Initiate the following recreation decisions to support the identified outcome objective and desired future setting condition: • Utilize monitoring and evaluation to adjust management techniques and implementation decisions as necessary to reach desired future setting conditions and provide identified recreation opportunities (activities, experiences, and benefits). • New trails will be identified and authorized in a master trails plan and supported through implementation-level decision making. • Pursue land exchanges and access agreements for parcels in and adjacent to this RMZ. • Solicit partnerships and cooperative agreements to monitor outcome attainment and preferences through customer assessments (focus group interviews or visitor studies). • Monitor recreation setting condition through onsite patrols May through November.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 6094: Close the Johnny Behind the Rocks RMZ to motorized travel, except with an allowance for administrative access agreements with livestock grazing permittees. This management decision does not close motorized travel on the Blue Ridge Road and other roads adjacent to or outside of the SRMA. Motorized travel on and west of Cedar Ridge will be closed as a result of this decision.	No changes made.	
MD 6095: The Johnny Behind the Rocks area is open to cross-country nonmotorized travel.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 6096: Manage the Johnny Behind the Rocks RMZ as VRM Class II.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 6113: Mineral and ROW actions in the Dubois Mill-Site SRMA are managed with the following restrictions: • Closed to oil and gas leasing • Closed to geophysical exploration • Closed to phosphate leasing • Open to locatable minerals • Closed to mineral material disposals • Excluded to major ROWs • Avoided for minor ROWs	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2.19.2 Relevant Appendices

The following table shows which appendices from the 2014 and 2019 plans have management direction that may change through this RMP amendment. If 2019 is not listed in the year, then no change was made to the appendix between the 2015 and 2019 plans. The 2014 Appendices can be found on [the Lander RMP ePlanning website](#). The 2019 Appendices can be found on [the Wyoming GRSG ePlanning website](#).

ARMPA Appendix Name	Year	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
A: Maps	2014	Yes
A: Approved RMP Amendment with Management Goals, Objectives, and Decisions	2019	Yes
B: Reclamation Objectives and Standards	2014	No
C: Exception, Modification, and Waiver Criteria, Avoidance Criteria, and Special Management for Designated Corridors	2014	Yes
D: Lander Air Resources Management Plan	2014	No
E: Required Design Features and Best Management Practices	2014	Yes
B: Required Design Features	2019	Yes
F: Stipulations and Conditions of Approval in Designated Development Areas and in Non-Designated Development Areas	2014	No
G: Livestock Grazing Allotments and Range Improvements	2014	No
H: Wyoming BLM Mitigation Guidelines for Surface-Disturbing and Disruptive Activities	2014	No
I: Oil and Gas Stipulations	2014	Yes
J: Species Mentioned in the Lander Field Office Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement	2014	No
K: Lands Identified for Disposal	2014	No
L: Wild Horse Management in the Lander Planning Area	2014	Yes
M: Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Objectives Final Report Consistency Review	2014	No
N: Monitoring and Evaluation Plan	2014	No
O: Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision Crosswalk Tables	2014	No
P: Biological Opinion	2014	No
C: Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management Strategy	2019	Yes

Appendix 2.20

Worland, Wyoming RMP Revisions

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2.20 WORLAND, WYOMING RMP REVISIONS

This appendix presents the approved RMP revision language from the record of decision for the Worland RMP that relate to GRSG management. The table below notes which goals, objectives, appendices, and management decisions/actions have a potential to change as a result of the current planning effort and if so, under which alternatives changes are being considered. Note that any references to tables and appendices are to those applicable RMP appendices that are listed in **Section 2.20.2** of this appendix.

2.20.1 Existing GRSG RMP Management –Worland RMP Revisions

Table 1. Summary of Goals, Objectives, and Management Actions to the Worland RMP

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Land Use Plan Revisions/Amendments to the Worland RMP		
MO MR:2.3: Priority will be given to leasing and development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, outside of PHMA and GHMA. When analyzing leasing and authorizing development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, in PHMA and GHMA, and subject to applicable stipulations for the conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse, priority will be given to development in non-habitat areas first and then in the least suitable habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse. The implementation of these priorities will be subject to valid existing rights and any applicable law or regulation, including, but not limited to, 30 U.S.C. 226(p) and 43 CFR 3162.3-1(h).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MO MR:2.4: Where a proposed fluid mineral development project on an existing lease could adversely affect Greater Sage-Grouse populations or habitat, the BLM will work with the lessees, operators, or other project proponents to avoid, reduce, and mitigate adverse impacts to the extent compatible with lessees' rights to drill and produce fluid mineral resources. The BLM will work with the lessee, operator, or project proponent in developing an APD for the lease to avoid and minimize impacts to Greater Sage-Grouse or its habitat and will ensure that the best information about the Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat informs and helps to guide development of such federal leases.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 2005: Consider interest in exploration for, or leasing of, federal coal (Map 3-5), if any on a case-by-case basis. Allow coal exploration licenses subject to the regulations of 43 CFR 3410, and subject to guidance mitigating for surface-disturbing activities in the <i>Wyoming BLM Standard Oil and Gas Lease Stipulations</i> (Appendix B, <i>Oil and Gas Lease Notices and Lease Stipulations, including Exception, Modification, and Waiver Criteria</i> (p. 211)). Before issuing a coal exploration license, require the authorized officer to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement, if necessary, of the potential effects of the proposed exploration on the natural and socioeconomic environment of the affected area. If an application for a federal coal lease is received, conduct an appropriate land use and environmental analysis, including the coal screening process, to determine whether the area(s) proposed for leasing is (are) acceptable for coal development and leasing (as per 43 CFR 3425). If public lands are determined to be acceptable for further consideration for coal leasing, amend the land use plan as necessary. Only accept federal coal lease applications on those federal coal lands with development potential identified as suitable for further leasing consideration, after application of the coal screens and unsuitability criteria. At the time an application for a new coal lease or lease modification is submitted to the BLM, the BLM will determine whether the lease application area is "unsuitable" for all or certain coal mining methods pursuant to 43 CFR 3461.5. PHMA is essential habitat for maintaining Greater Sage-Grouse for purposes of the suitability criteria set forth at 43 CFR 3461.5(o)(1). The BLM will also consider that USFWS has found "the core area strategy...if implemented by all landowners via regulatory mechanisms, would provide adequate protection for sage-grouse and their habitats in the state" when considering leasing coal in PHMAs under the criteria set for at 43 CFR 3461.5(o)(1) (USFWS 2010).	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 2013: Process oil and gas lease applications on a case-by-case basis. Ensure that leasing activities in PHMAs comply with Greater Sage-Grouse RMP decisions and remain in compliance with laws, regulations, and policy.	Process oil and gas lease applications on a case-by-case basis. Ensure that leasing activities in PHMAs comply with Greater Sage-Grouse RMP decisions and remain in compliance with laws, regulations, and policy (See MDs 4106, 4107, 4108, 4110, and 4152).	Potential change under Alternative 3.
**MD 2023: Delineate Oil and Gas Management Areas (Map 3-9) (333,488 acres of federal mineral estate) around existing intensively-developed fields, applying a 2-mile buffer from the outer boundary of the existing field (Map 3-10); adding enhanced oil recovery areas identified by the Governor's Office Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute and excluding Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs. Manage these areas primarily for oil and gas exploration and development. Oil and gas development, including enhanced oil recovery operations, within Oil and Gas Management Areas is allowed to take place at the same level and density as the existing development in the field. Levels and densities beyond the existing field development may require additional reclamation or compensatory offsite mitigation. As oil and gas fields expand or exploration reaches beyond the Oil and Gas Management Areas depicted on Map 3-9, Oil and Gas Management Areas may be enlarged as appropriate. To enlarge Oil and Gas Management Areas, the expansion area would: i) have to be adjacent to the field and under valid oil and gas lease(s) with stipulations allowing surface occupancy and development; ii) have to have a surface density of, on average, at least four well pads per 640-acres; a determination that additional well density is required to efficiently and adequately produce the oil or gas resource; iii) have a project-specific environmental analysis prepared to analyze the impacts and determine operating methods, mitigation, and BMPs to be used in the efficient and comprehensive development of the field; iv) need surface resources to be satisfactorily mitigated; and v) need commitment to accelerate reclamation as required by the authorized officer.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MO FM:1.5:: Following wildland fires, conduct appropriate emergency stabilization and rehabilitation when and where needed. In priority Greater Sage-Grouse habitat areas, prioritize suppression immediately after life and property to conserve the habitat. In general Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, prioritize suppression where wildfires threaten priority Greater Sage-Grouse habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD FM:2.1: Consult and cooperate with adjacent landowners, state and local governments, and other stakeholders to plan and implement prescribed fire and other vegetation treatments across the landscape. In areas of general Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, design and implement fuels treatments with an emphasis on protecting existing sagebrush ecosystems.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 3008: Suppress fires threatening Greater Sage-Grouse habitats and crucial winter wildlife habitat within Wyoming big sagebrush communities. Where fire would be utilized to meet resource objectives, work closely with resource specialists to protect and improve Greater Sage-Grouse habitat. For fuels management, the BLM would consider multiple tools for fuels reduction and would analyze in NEPA compliance documentation before electing to implement prescribed fire in PHMAs. If prescribed fire is used in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan will address: • why alternative techniques were not selected as a viable options; • how Greater Sage-Grouse goals and objectives would be met by its use; • how the COT Report objectives would be addressed and met; and • a risk assessment to address how potential threats to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat would be minimized. Prescribed fire as a vegetation or fuels treatment in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Prescribed fire could be used to meet specific fuels objectives that would protect Greater Sage-Grouse habitat in PHMAs (e.g., creation of fuel breaks that would disrupt the fuel continuity across the landscape in stands where annual invasive grasses are a minor component in the understory, burning slash piles from conifer reduction treatments, used as a component with other treatment methods to combat annual grasses and restore native plant communities). Prescribed fire in known crucial winter wildlife habitat shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Any prescribed fire in and/or around crucial winter wildlife habitat must be strategically-designed to reduce wildfire risk and protect winter range habitat quality.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MO BR:2.6: In PHMAs, the desired condition is to maintain all lands ecologically capable of producing sagebrush (but no less than 70 percent) with a minimum of 15 percent sagebrush cover or as consistent with specific ecological site conditions. The attributes necessary to sustain these habitats are described in Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health (BLM Technical Reference 1734-6 [BLM 2005c]).	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MG BR:9: GREATER SAGE-GROUSE – Sustain the integrity of the sagebrush biome to provide the amount, continuity, and quality of habitat that is necessary to maintain sustainable populations of Greater Sage-Grouse and other species by achieving the objectives below.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MO BR:9.1: Maintain large patches of high quality sagebrush habitats, with emphasis on patches occupied by Greater Sage-Grouse.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:9.2: Maintain connections between sagebrush habitats, with emphasis on connections between habitats occupied by Greater Sage-Grouse.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MO BR:10.1: Reconnect large patches of sagebrush habitat with emphasis on reconnecting patches occupied by stronghold and isolated populations of Greater Sage-Grouse.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4058: Maintain or improve important wildlife habitats through vegetative manipulations, habitat improvement projects, livestock grazing strategies and the application of <i>The Wyoming Guidelines for Managing Sagebrush Communities with Emphasis on Fire Management</i> (Wyoming Interagency Vegetation Committee 2002) and the <i>Wyoming BLM Standard Mitigation Guidelines for Surface-Disturbing and Disruptive Activities</i> (Appendix F, <i>Wyoming Bureau of Land Management Mitigation Guidelines for Surface-Disturbing and Disruptive Activities</i> (p. 349)), BMPs (Appendix C, <i>Required Design Features and Best Management Practices</i> (p. 249)), and similar guidance updated over time.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4070: Conduct habitat enhancement vegetation treatments within sagebrush communities as opportunities and funding allow, consistent with EO 2015-4 (Wyoming Office of the Governor 2015).	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 4071: Modify identified hazard fences, and analyze and construct new fences in accordance with wildlife needs, the BLM Fencing Handbook 1741-1, and WO IM 2010-022, <i>Managing Structures for the Safety of Sage-grouse, Sharp-tailed grouse, and Lesser Prairie-chicken</i> , and similar guidance and policy as updated over time.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4076: Allow water development projects in crucial elk winter range and in greater Greater Sage-Grouse nesting habitat with 10 inches or less annual precipitation only when adverse effects can be avoided, minimized and/or compensated based on site-specific analysis. Allow existing uses pending site-specific analysis on a priority basis.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4080: Avoid wind energy projects in big game crucial winter range and raptor concentration areas. Wind-energy development would be avoided in Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs (Map 3-17), and not allowed unless it can be sufficiently demonstrated that the development activity would not result in declines of Greater Sage-Grouse PHMA populations. Sufficient demonstration of “no declines” should be coordinated with the WGFD and USFWS.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD 4087: Discourage the use of broad-spectrum insecticides where insect control is required. Target pest control toward key problem areas and schedule applications to be effective in minimum doses in Greater Sage-Grouse brood-rearing areas. Field Offices may implement treatments within Greater Sage-Grouse habitat utilizing RAATS protocols.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4088: Avoid aerial pesticide spraying in favor of ground applications to minimize drift into non-target areas in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat unless benefits of treatments are likely to outweigh impacts.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4089: Avoid applying pesticides to Greater Sage-Grouse breeding habitat during the nesting and early brood-rearing season (March 15 through June 30) to reduce the loss of food supply to chicks and avoid the chance of secondary poisoning unless benefits of treatments are likely to outweigh impacts.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 4090: Maintain seeps, springs, wet meadows, and riparian vegetation in a functional and diverse condition for young Greater Sage-Grouse and other species that depend on forbs and insects associated with these areas. Consider management actions if desirable green vegetation associated with these wet areas is not available, accessible, or cannot be maintained with current livestock, wildlife, or wild horse use, and the impacts are outweighed by the improved habitat quality.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4091: Restore Greater Sage-Grouse brood-rearing habitats in riparian/wetland areas.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4092: Restore lost riparian functioning systems by repairing abnormally incised drainages to raise water tables and increase water storage and brood-rearing habitats within Greater Sage-Grouse habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 4093: Manage vegetation composition diversity and structure, as determined by ESD, or other methods that reference site potential, and WGFD protocols to achieve Greater Sage-Grouse habitat management objectives, in cooperation with stakeholders. Evaluate the role of existing seedings that are currently composed of primarily introduced perennial grasses in and adjacent to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat to determine if they should be restored to Greater Sage-Grouse or habitat of higher quality for Greater Sage-Grouse. If these seedings provide value in conserving or enhancing Greater Sage-Grouse habitats, then no restoration would be necessary. Assess the compatibility of these seedings for Greater Sage-Grouse habitat during the land health assessments. Burned areas within PHMAs would be restored to suitable habitat with consideration given to ESDs, reference sites, site potential and local variability. The BLM could bring in burned area rehabilitation and Burned Area Emergency Response teams who would work cooperatively with partners at the federal, state, and local levels to rehabilitate and restore Greater Sage-Grouse habitats in a manner consistent with the core habitat populations area strategy for conservation. DDCT reviews would be conducted in coordination with the WGFD Habitat Protection Program located in Cheyenne, Wyoming at the WGFD headquarters. Areas within PHMAs would be prioritized for restoration of Greater Sage-Grouse habitat beyond immediate response.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4094: Maintain sagebrush and understory diversity (relative to ecological site description) in crucial seasonal Greater Sage-Grouse habitats unless such removal is necessary to achieve Greater Sage-Grouse habitat management objectives. For example, thinning small patches of dense sagebrush may increase desirable forbs in early brood-rearing habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 4095: Increase the composition and canopy cover of Wyoming big sagebrush, within existing nonnative grass seedings with less than 5 percent sagebrush canopy cover, to greater than or equal to neighboring sagebrush communities or historical levels. (See Shrubland-Salt Desert/Salt Bottom on Map 3-15; deeper soiled, and gentler sloped portions of the Shrubland-Salt Desert/Salt Bottom, colored in pink, would be those areas where sagebrush restoration efforts could be conducted.)	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4096: Investigate opportunities to increase sagebrush in lower precipitation zones.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4097: Plan and construct mining and mineral development activities, to the degree possible given state water rights, to minimize disturbances that would result in alterations to springs and riparian Greater Sage-Grouse habitat. Alternative water sources may be developed to replace natural sources that have been affected or destroyed during these development activities.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD 4098: Treat constructed or non-natural water storage impoundments to control mosquito breeding (and the associated spread of West Nile virus), to prevent disease spread to Greater Sage-Grouse as necessary.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4099: In cooperation with stakeholders, manage to promote the growth and persistence of native shrubs, grasses, and forbs needed by Greater Sage-Grouse for seasonal food and concealment.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4100: In cooperation with stakeholders, design and locate fences so as not to disturb PHMAs. Increase the visibility of fences in these areas which have been identified as hazardous to flying Greater Sage-Grouse.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4101: Conduct fire management activities to minimize overall wildfire size and frequency in sagebrush plant communities where Greater Sage-Grouse habitat objectives are at risk. General priorities for habitat protection: Priority # 1 – Protection of Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs. Priority # 2 – Wyoming big sagebrush communities outside Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs and habitats recovering from disturbance within or adjacent to Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 4102: Annually maintain FMPs to incorporate updated sagebrush habitat information as well as fire suppression priorities in sagebrush habitats. Incorporate fire management objectives for the management of sagebrush ecosystems into FMPs. Provide fire management objectives for sagebrush ecosystems to initial attack personnel at the beginning of each fire season.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4103: Establish fuels treatment projects at strategic locations to minimize size of wildfires and limit loss of Greater Sage-Grouse habitat.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4104: Reintroduce appropriate fire regimes to limit conifer encroachment into the sagebrush plant communities. Take into account invasive herbaceous species and Fire Regime Group and FRCC (measure of departure from historic fire regime) with treatments. Where possible, achieve a balance between treating areas that have significantly departed from the historic fire regime (Condition Class 3) and areas that are functioning within an appropriate fire regime (Condition Class 1).	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 4105: Remove conifers encroaching into sagebrush habitats in a manner that considers tribal and cultural values. Prioritize treatments closest to occupied Greater Sage-Grouse habitats and near occupied leks, and where juniper encroachment is phase 1 or phase 2 as defined in Miller et al. (2005). Refine the location of specific priority areas to be treated by utilizing site-specific analysis and principles like those included in the FIAT report (Chambers et. al. [2014]) and other ongoing modeling efforts to address conifer encroachment.	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
**MD 4106: Inside PHMAs Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities on or within a 0.6-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks. The authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental record of review determines that the action, as proposed or conditioned, would not impair the function or utility of the site for the current or subsequent seasonal habitat, life-history, or behavioral needs of Greater Sage-Grouse (Map 3-17). Outside PHMAs Prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities and apply a NSO restriction within a 1/4-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (Map 3-17). Outside Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs, the BLM's goal is to sustain important habitats that support core populations and to maintain lek persistence over the long term in sufficient proportions of the Greater Sage-Grouse population to facilitate movement and genetic transfer between core populations, including those found in adjacent states.	Inside PHMAs Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities on or within a 0.6-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped). Outside PHMAs Prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities and apply a NSO restriction within a 1/4-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped) (Map 3-17). Outside Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs, the BLM's goal is to sustain important habitats that support core populations and to maintain lek persistence over the long term in sufficient proportions of the Greater Sage-Grouse population to facilitate movement and genetic transfer between core populations, including those found in adjacent states. The authorized officer may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis subject to appropriate site-specific analysis, mitigation requirements, and consultation with the State of Wyoming and consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming's Executive Order 2015-4) (see MD 4152).	Potential change under Alternatives 3 and 6.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
**MD 4107: Inside PHMAs Prohibit disruptive activities on or within a 0.6-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks from March 15 to June 30 (81,281 acres). Outside PHMAs Prohibit disruptive activities on or within a ¼ mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks from March 15 to June 30 (3,157 acres). Inside PHMAs Prohibit surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities from March 15 to June 30 to protect Greater Sage-Grouse breeding, nesting, and early brood-rearing habitat (1,021,583 acres). Apply this timing limitation throughout the PHMAs. Activities in unsuitable habitats would be evaluated under the exception and modification criteria and could be allowed on a case-by-case basis. Outside PHMAs Prohibit surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities in Greater Sage-Grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitat within a 2-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks from March 15 to June 30. Note: Where credible data support different timeframes for these seasonal restrictions, dates may be expanded by up to 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates.	Inside PHMAs Prohibit disruptive activities on or within a 0.6-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped) from March 15 to June 30 (81,281 acres). Outside PHMAs Prohibit disruptive activities on or within a ¼ mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped) from March 15 to June 30 (3,157 acres). Inside PHMAs Prohibit surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities from March 15 to June 30 to protect Greater Sage-Grouse breeding, nesting, and early brood-rearing habitat (1,021,583 acres). Apply this timing limitation throughout the PHMAs. Activities in unsuitable habitats would be evaluated under the exception and modification criteria and could be allowed on a case-by-case basis. Outside PHMAs Prohibit surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities in Greater Sage-Grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitat within a 2-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped) from March 15 to June 30. Note: Where credible data support different timeframes for these seasonal restrictions, dates may be expanded by up to 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates. The authorized officer may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis subject to appropriate site-specific analysis, mitigation requirements, and consultation with the State of Wyoming and consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming's Executive Order 2015-4) (see MD 4152).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
**MD 4108: Greater Sage-Grouse winter concentration areas: Surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities in sage-grouse winter concentration areas would be prohibited from December 1–March 14. Activities in unsuitable habitats within PHMAs would be evaluated under the exception and modification criteria and could be allowed on a case-by-case basis. Protection of additional mapped winter concentration areas in GHMAs would be implemented only where winter concentration areas are identified as supporting biologically significant numbers of sage-grouse nesting in PHMAs and/or attending leks within PHMAs. Appropriate seasonal timing restrictions and habitat protection measures would be considered and evaluated in consultation with the WGFD in all identified winter concentration areas. Evaluate and allow activities in unsuitable habitats within PHMAs in accordance with exception and modification criteria on a case-by-case basis. Protection of additional mapped winter concentration areas in GHMAs would be implemented only where winter concentration areas are identified as supporting biologically significant numbers of Greater Sage-Grouse nesting in PHMAs and/or attending leks within PHMAs. Appropriate seasonal timing restrictions and habitat protection measures would be considered and evaluated in consultation with the WGFD in all identified winter concentration areas.	Greater Sage-Grouse winter concentration areas: Surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities in sage-grouse winter concentration areas would be prohibited from December 1–March 14. The authorized officer may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis subject to appropriate site-specific analysis, mitigation requirements, and consultation with the State of Wyoming and consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming’s Executive Order 2015-4) (see MD 4152). Protection of additional mapped winter concentration areas in GHMA would be implemented where winter concentration areas are mapped and designated by the State of Wyoming. Appropriate seasonal timing restrictions and habitat protection measures would be considered and evaluated in consultation with the WGFD in all identified winter concentration areas. Where credible data support different timeframes for this seasonal restriction, dates may be expanded by up to 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
**MD 4109: Density of Disturbances: In Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs, the density of disturbance of energy or mining facilities would be limited to an average of one site per square mile (640 acres) within the DDCT, subject to valid existing rights (Appendix D, <i>Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management Strategy</i> (p. 271)). The one location and cumulative value of existing disturbances would not exceed 5 percent of habitat of the DDCT area. Inside PHMA, all suitable habitat disturbed (any program area) will not exceed 5 percent within the DDCT area using the DDCT process. Consolidate anthropogenic features from development and transmission on the landscape. Allow on a case-by-case basis high profile structures within Greater Sage-Grouse nesting habitat. Sagebrush Treatment: For vegetation treatments in sagebrush within PHMAs, refer to WGFD Protocols for Treating Sagebrush to Benefit Sage-Grouse (WGFD 2011, as updated) and BLMWO IM 2013-128 (Sage-grouse Conservation Related to Wildland Fire and Fuels Management). These recommended protocols, subject to seasonal conditions of approval, would be used in determining whether proposed treatment constitutes a “disturbance” that would contribute toward the 5 percent threshold for habitat maintenance. Additionally, these protocols would be used to determine whether the proposed treatment configuration would be expected to have neutral or beneficial impacts for PHMA populations or if they represent additional habitat loss or fragmentation. Treatments to enhance sagebrush/grasslands habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse would be evaluated based upon habitat quality and the functionality/use of treated habitats post-treatment. The BLM would work collaboratively with partners at the state and local levels to maintain and enhance Greater Sage-Grouse habitats. Seasonal restrictions would be applied, as needed, for implementing fuels management treatments according to the type of seasonal habitat present.	Density of Disturbances: In Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs, the density of disturbance of energy or mining facilities would be limited to an average of one site per square mile (640 acres) within the DDCT, subject to valid existing rights (2019 Wyoming GrSG ARMPA Appendix C, <i>Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management Strategy</i>). The one location and cumulative value of existing disturbances would not exceed 5 percent of habitat of the DDCT area. Inside PHMA, all suitable habitat disturbed (any program area) will not exceed 5 percent within the DDCT area using the DDCT process. Consolidate anthropogenic features from development and transmission on the landscape. Allow on a case-by-case basis high profile structures within Greater Sage-Grouse nesting habitat. Sagebrush Treatment: For vegetation treatments in sagebrush within PHMAs, refer to WGFD Protocols for Treating Sagebrush to Benefit Sage-Grouse (WGFD 2015, as updated) and BLM WO IM 2013-128 (Sage-grouse Conservation Related to Wildland Fire and Fuels Management). These recommended protocols, subject to seasonal conditions of approval, would be used in determining whether proposed treatment constitutes a “disturbance” that would contribute toward the 5 percent threshold for habitat maintenance. Additionally, these protocols would be used to determine whether the proposed treatment configuration would be expected to have neutral or beneficial impacts for PHMA populations or if they represent additional habitat loss or fragmentation. Treatments to enhance sagebrush/grasslands habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse would be evaluated based upon habitat quality and the functionality/use of treated habitats post-treatment. The BLM would work collaboratively with partners at the state and local levels to maintain and enhance Greater Sage-Grouse habitats. Seasonal restrictions would be applied, as needed, for implementing fuels management treatments according to the type of seasonal habitat present. Wildfire burns will be treated as disturbed if sagebrush is reduced below 5 percent unless	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
Wildfire burns will be treated as disturbed if sagebrush is reduced below 5 percent unless there is an implementation plan outlining restoration efforts and 3 years of data showing a trend back to suitable habitat.	there is an implementation plan outlining restoration efforts and 3 years of data showing a trend back to suitable habitat.	
*MD 4110: New project noise levels, either individual or cumulative, should not exceed 10 dBA (as measured by L50) above baseline noise at the perimeter of the lek from 6:00 pm to 8:00 am during the breeding season (March 1 to May 15). Specific noise protocols for measurement and implementation will be developed as additional research and information emerges.	Within PHMA (core only), new project noise levels, either individual or cumulative, should not exceed 10 dBA (as measured by L50) above baseline noise at the perimeter of the lek (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped) from 6:00 pm to 8:00 am during the breeding season (March 1–May 15). The authorized officer may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis subject to appropriate site-specific analysis, mitigation requirements, and consultation with the State of Wyoming and consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming’s Executive Order 2015-4) (see MD SSS 4). In coordination with the State of Wyoming, specific noise protocols for measurement and implementation will be developed as additional research and information emerges. These measures would be considered at the site-specific project level where and when appropriate.	No change proposed.
MD 4111: Allow motorized vehicle use in Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs consistent with other resource objectives. Manage new road construction in and adjacent to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat consistent with applicable restrictions on surface-disturbing and disruptive activities. Avoid construction of new or local collector roads (as defined in BLM Manual 9113 [BLM 2011d]) within 1.9 miles of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks within PHMAs. Prohibit all new roads within 0.6 miles of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks within PHMAs. Construct roads to minimum design standards needed for production activities.	Allow motorized vehicle use in Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs consistent with other resource objectives. Manage new road construction in and adjacent to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat consistent with applicable restrictions on surface-disturbing and disruptive activities. Avoid construction of new or local collector roads (as defined in BLM Manual 9113 [BLM 2011d]) within 1.9 miles of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped) within PHMAs. Prohibit all new roads within 0.6 miles of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped) within PHMAs. Construct roads to minimum design standards needed for production activities.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
**MD 4112: In PHMAs, implement mitigation and minimization guidelines and required design features, including specific measures for Greater Sage-Grouse (refer to Appendix C, <i>Required Design Features and Best Management Practices</i> (p. 249)), as applicable and consistent with EO 2015-4 (Wyoming Office of the Governor 2015). Incorporate Greater Sage-Grouse specific measures into project proposals as required design features or mitigation for any authorized federal action, regardless of surface ownership.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.
MD 4113: In PHMAs, require the development of a wildlife resource monitoring and mitigation plan to address potential impacts from mineral development on wildlife populations and/or habitat on a case-by-case basis.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
MD 4114: Use the following travel management criteria in PHMAs: • During subsequent travel management planning, all routes within PHMAs would undergo a route evaluation to determine its purpose and need and the potential resource and/or user conflicts from motorized travel. Where resource and/or user conflicts outweigh the purpose and need for the route, the route would be considered for closure or considered for relocation outside of sensitive Greater Sage-Grouse habitat. • During implementation-level travel planning, threats to Greater Sage-Grouse and their habitat would be considered when evaluating route designations and/or closures. • During subsequent travel management planning, routes within PHMAs that do not have a purpose or need would be considered for closure. • During subsequent travel management planning, routes within PHMAs that are duplicative parallel, or redundant would be considered for closure. • • During subsequent travel management planning, OHV timing limitations would be considered in important seasonal habitats where OHV use is a threat. • During subsequent travel management planning, consider limiting snow machine travel to designated routes or consider seasonal closures in Greater Sage-Grouse	No changes made.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
wintering areas from November 1 through March 31. • During subsequent travel management planning, routes in PHMAs not required for public access or recreation with a current administrative/agency purpose or need would be evaluated for administrative access only. • During subsequent travel management planning, prioritize restoration of routes not designated in a Travel Management Plan within PHMAs. • During subsequent travel management planning, consider using seed mixes or transplant techniques that will maintain or enhance Greater Sage-Grouse habitat when rehabilitating linear disturbances. • During subsequent travel management planning, consider scheduling road maintenance to avoid disturbance during sensitive periods and times to the extent practicable. Use time of day limits (after 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM) to reduce impacts on Greater Sage-Grouse during breeding and nesting periods.	(See above.)	(See above.)
*MD 4115: The Greater Sage-Grouse adaptive management plan provides regulatory assurance that unintended negative impacts to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat will be addressed before consequences become severe or irreversible. Adaptive management triggers are essential for identifying when potential management changes are needed in order to continue meeting Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives. With respect to Greater Sage-Grouse, all regulatory entities in Wyoming, including the BLM, use soft and hard triggers. Soft and hard triggers are focused on three metrics: 1) number of active leks, 2) acres of available habitat, and 3) population trends based on annual lek counts. See Appendix D, <i>Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management Strategy</i> (p. 271) for more information on soft and hard triggers. <u>Soft Triggers Response:</u> Soft triggers are indicators that management or specific activities may not be achieving the intended results of conservation action or that unanticipated changes to populations or habitats have occurred that have the potential to place habitats or populations at risk. The	The Greater Sage-Grouse adaptive management plan provides regulatory assurance that unintended negative impacts to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat will be addressed before consequences become severe or irreversible. Adaptive management triggers are essential for identifying when potential management changes are needed in order to continue meeting Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives. With respect to Greater Sage-Grouse, all regulatory entities in Wyoming, including the BLM, use soft and hard triggers. Soft and hard triggers are focused on three metrics: 1) number of active leks, 2) acres of available habitat, and 3) population trends based on annual lek counts. See 2019 Wyoming GrSG ARMPA Appendix C, <i>Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management Strategy</i> for more information on soft and hard triggers. <u>Soft Triggers Response:</u> Soft triggers are indicators that management or specific activities may not be achieving the intended results of conservation action or that unanticipated changes to populations or habitats have occurred that have the potential to place habitats or populations at risk. The	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
soft trigger is any deviation from normal trends in habitat or population in any given year. Metrics include, but are not limited to, annual lek counts, wing counts, aerial surveys, habitat monitoring, and DDCT evaluations. For population metrics, normal population trends are calculated as the 5-year running mean of annual population counts. BLM field offices, with the assistance of their respective land and RMP implementation groups, local WGFD offices, and local sage-grouse working groups will evaluate the metrics with the Adaptive Management Working Group on an annual basis. The purpose of these strategies is to address localized greater sage-grouse population and habitat changes by providing the framework in which management will change if monitoring identifies negative population and habitat anomalies in order to avoid crossing a hard trigger threshold. Soft triggers require immediate monitoring and surveillance to determine causal factors and may require curtailment of activities in the short or long term, as allowed by law. The project level adaptive management strategies will identify appropriate responses where the project's activities are identified as the causal factor. The management agency (BLM) and the Adaptive Management Work Group will implement an appropriate response strategy to address causal factors not attributable to a specific project or to make adjustments at a larger regional or statewide level. <u>Hard Trigger Response:</u> Hard triggers are indicators that management is not achieving desired conservation results. Hard triggers would be considered a catastrophic indicator that the species is not responding to conservation actions, or that a larger-scale impact or set of impacts is having a negative effect. Within the range of normal population variables (5-year running mean of annual population counts), hard triggers shall be determined to take effect when two of the three metrics exceeds 60 percent of normal variability for the area under management in a single year, or when any of the three metrics exceeds 40 percent of normal variability for a 3 year time period within a 5-year range of analysis. A minimum of 3 consecutive years in	soft trigger is any deviation from normal trends in habitat or population in any given year. Metrics include, but are not limited to, annual lek counts, wing counts, aerial surveys, habitat monitoring, and DDCT evaluations. For population metrics, normal population trends are calculated as the 5-year running mean of annual population counts. BLM field offices, with the assistance of their respective land and RMP implementation groups, local WGFD offices, and local sage-grouse working groups will evaluate the metrics with the Adaptive Management Working Group on an annual basis. The purpose of these strategies is to address localized Greater Sage-Grouse population and habitat changes by providing the framework in which management will change if monitoring identifies negative population and habitat anomalies in order to avoid crossing a hard trigger threshold. Soft triggers require immediate monitoring and surveillance to determine causal factors and may require curtailment of activities in the short or long term, as allowed by law. The project level adaptive management strategies will identify appropriate responses where the project's activities are identified as the causal factor. The management agency (BLM) and the Adaptive Management Work Group will implement an appropriate response strategy to address causal factors not attributable to a specific project or to make adjustments at a larger regional or statewide level. <u>Hard Trigger Response:</u> Hard triggers are indicators that management is not achieving desired conservation results. Hard triggers would be considered a catastrophic indicator that the species is not responding to conservation actions, or that a larger-scale impact or set of impacts is having a negative effect. Within the range of normal population variables (5-year running mean of annual population counts), hard triggers shall be determined to take effect when two of the three metrics exceeds 60 percent of normal variability for the area under management in a single year, or when any of the three metrics exceeds 40 percent of normal variability for a 3 year time period within a 5-year range of analysis. A minimum of 3 consecutive years in a 5-year period is used to determine trends	(See above.)

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
a 5-year period is used to determine trends (i.e., years 1-2-3, years 2-3-4, years 3-4-5).	(i.e., years 1-2-3, years 2-3-4, years 3-4-5). Upon determination that a hard trigger has been tripped, the BLM will immediately defer issuance of discretionary authorizations for new actions within the Biologically Significant Unit for a period of 90 days. In addition, within 14 days of a determination that a hard trigger has been tripped, the Adaptive Management Work Group will convene to develop an interim response strategy and initiate an assessment to determine the causal factor or factors (hereafter called the causal factor assessment). The AMWG would define a process to review and reverse adaptive management actions once the identified causal factor is resolved (e.g., returning to previous management once objectives of interim management strategy have been met). In making amendments to this plan, the BLM will coordinate with the USFWS as BLM continues to meet its objective of protecting, restoring, and enhancing Greater Sage-Grouse habitat by reducing, minimizing or eliminating threats to that habitat. The hard and soft trigger data will be analyzed as soon as it becomes available after the signing of the ROD and then at a minimum, analyzed annually thereafter.	(See above.)
MD 4142: Base future adjustments to the appropriate management level on monitoring information and multiple use considerations through development of and/or revisions to HMA Plans. Update HMA plans to include Greater Sage-Grouse objectives.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternative 3.
No similar action.	*MD 4151: The BLM will update its Greater Sage-Grouse habitat management areas, including biologically significant units (BSUs), in conjunction with the State of Wyoming's core areas, upon issuance of any Wyoming Governor's Executive Order revising or amending the core area boundaries and upon completion of appropriate NEPA analysis and process. The BLM will complete the appropriate NEPA documentation (including appropriate public comment) prior to adopting any revised core area boundaries (e.g., maintenance action or plan amendment, environmental assessment, etc.).	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
No similar action.	*MD 4152: Specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: Adopt the State of Wyoming's Greater Sage-Grouse Compensatory Mitigation Framework to the extent consistent with federal law, regulations, and policy. In all Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, when authorizing third-party actions in designated Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, the BLM will seek to achieve the planning-level Greater Sage-Grouse management goals and objectives through implementation of mitigation and management actions, consistent with valid existing rights and applicable law. Under this Plan Amendment, management would be consistent with the Greater Sage-Grouse goals and objectives, and in conformance with BLM Manual 6840, Special Status Species Management. In accordance with BLM Manual 6840, the BLM will undertake planning decisions, actions and authorizations "to minimize or eliminate threats affecting the status of [Greater Sage-Grouse] or to improve the condition of [Greater Sage-Grouse] habitat" across the planning area. Accordingly, before authorizing third-party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation, the BLM will complete the following steps, in alignment with the Governor of Wyoming's Executive Order 2015-4 (July 29, 2015): 1. Work jointly with the WGFD to evaluate projects and recommend mitigation in the form of avoidance and minimization. 2. The WGFD will determine if the State requires or recommends any additional mitigation – including compensatory mitigation – under State regulations, policies, or programs related to the conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse. 3. Incorporate state required or recommended mitigation into the BLM's NEPA decision-making process, if the WGFD determines that compensatory mitigation is required to address impacts to GRSG habitat as a part of State policy or authorization, or if a proponent voluntarily offers mitigation. 4. Analyze whether the compensatory mitigation (deferring to the appropriate State authority to quantify habitat offsets, durability, and other aspects used to	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
(See above.)	determine the recommended compensatory mitigation action): • achieves measurable outcomes for Greater Sage-Grouse habitat function on a landscape scale as determined by WGFD that are at least equal to the lost or degraded values in accordance with the Governor of Wyoming's Executive Order 2015-4. • provides benefits that are in place for at least the duration of the impacts. • accounts for a level of risk that the mitigation action may fail or not persist for the full duration of the impact. 5. Ensure mitigation outcomes are consistent with the State of Wyoming's mitigation strategy and principles outlined in 2019 Wyoming GrSG ARMPA Appendix C, The Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management Strategy. The BLM has determined that compensatory mitigation must be voluntary unless required by other applicable law and in recognition that State authorities may also require compensatory mitigation (IM 2019-018, <i>Compensatory Mitigation</i>, December 6, 2018). Therefore, consistent with valid existing rights and applicable law, when authorizing third-party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation, the BLM will consider voluntary compensatory mitigation actions only as a component of compliance with a State mitigation plan, program, or authority, or when offered voluntarily by a project proponent. Project-specific analysis will be necessary to determine how a compensatory mitigation proposal addresses impacts from a proposed action. The BLM will cooperate with the State to determine appropriate project design and alignment with State policies and requirements, including those regarding compensatory mitigation. When the BLM is considering compensatory mitigation as a component of the project proponent's submission or based on a mitigation requirement from the State, the BLM's NEPA analysis would evaluate the need to avoid or minimize impacts of the proposed project and achieve the goals and objectives of this RMPA. The BLM will defer to the appropriate State authority to quantify habitat offsets, durability,	(See above.)

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
(See above.)	and other aspects used to determine the recommended compensatory mitigation action.	(See above.)
MO LR:1.5: Effects of infrastructure projects, including siting, will be minimized using the best available science, updated as monitoring information on current infrastructure projects becomes available.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 6014: The Secretary's policy is, generally, not to dispose of public lands. However, FLPMA Sections 201 & 202 state the Secretary shall 'prepare and maintain on a continuing basis an inventory of all public lands and their resource and other values...' and '...develop, maintain, and, when appropriate, revise land use plans which provide by tracts or areas for the use of the public lands', respectively. Therefore, as mandated by FLPMA Sections 201 & 202, the following tract(s) of public land have been found to meet criteria for disposal in FLPMA Section 203 (Sales) and/or FLPMA Section 206 (Exchanges) during this land use planning effort (Appendix I, Land Disposal and Acquisition (p. 379); Map 3-21. The identification of a public land tract as having met FLPMA criteria for disposal is NOT, in itself, a decision to dispose of public lands. The process for disposing of public lands via FLPMA Section 203 or Section 206 is a lengthy multi-decisional process requiring a comprehensive site-specific analysis, survey, and follow-on decisions prior to a final decision being made by the Department of Interior. Disposal can include none, some, or all of the mineral estate as allowed by 43 CFR 2720 and FLPMA Section 209(b)(1). A mineral potential report would determine if a surface estate disposal includes none, some, or all of the mineral estate. (Map 3-21) Lands classified as PHMAs and GHMAs for Greater Sage-Grouse will be retained in federal management unless: (1) the agency can demonstrate that disposal of the lands, including land exchanges, will provide a net conservation gain to the Greater Sage-Grouse or (2) the agency can demonstrate that the disposal of the lands, including land exchanges, will have no direct or indirect adverse impact on conservation of the Greater Sage-Grouse. Consider exceptions where there is mixed ownership. Allow land exchanges for	Retain approximately 2,048,905 acres of BLM-administered land. 52,080 acres of BLM-administered land are available for disposal by sale, exchange or other means (Map 3-21) (Appendix I, Land Disposal and Acquisition (p. 381)). Disposal can include none, some, or all of the mineral estate as allowed by 43 CFR 2720 and FLPMA Section 209(b)(1). A mineral potential report would determine if a surface estate disposal includes none, some, or all of the mineral estate. Lands classified as PHMAs and GHMAs for Greater Sage-Grouse will be retained in federal management unless: (1) the agency can demonstrate that disposal of the lands, including land exchanges, is in the public's best interest or (2) the agency can demonstrate that the disposal of the lands, including land exchanges, will have no direct or indirect adverse impact on conservation of the Greater Sage-Grouse. Consider exceptions where there is mixed ownership. Allow land exchanges for additional or more contiguous federal ownership patterns within PHMAs. For PHMAs with minority federal ownership, include an additional, effective mitigation agreement for any disposal of federal land. Consider pursuing a permanent conservation easement as a final preservation measure. For lands in GHMAs that are identified for disposal, the BLM will only dispose of such lands consistent with the goals and objectives of this plan, including, but not limited to, the land use plan objective to maintain or increase Greater Sage-Grouse abundance and distribution. Note: All land actions to acquire or dispose of lands would require a site specific analysis under NEPA.	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
additional or more contiguous federal ownership patterns within PHMAs. For PHMAs with minority federal ownership, include an additional, effective mitigation agreement for any disposal of federal land. Consider pursuing a permanent conservation easement as a final preservation measure. For lands in GHMAs that are identified for disposal, the BLM will only dispose of such lands consistent with the goals and objectives of this plan, including, but not limited to, the land use plan objective to maintain or increase Greater Sage-Grouse abundance and distribution. Note: All land actions to acquire or dispose of lands would require a site specific analysis under NEPA.	(See above.)	(See above.)
**MD 6028: Designate ROW corridors as shown on Map 3-24. PHMAs are designated as avoidance areas for high voltage transmission line and pipeline ROWs. All authorizations in these areas must comply with the conservation measures outlined in this Approved RMP, including the RDFs and avoidance criteria presented in Appendix C, <i>Required Design Features and Best Management Practices</i> (p. 249). Within PHMAs, specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: New Transmission Lines (greater than 115 kV): Allow new transmission lines greater than 115 kV in PHMA only (1) when located within 0.5 miles or less of an existing 115 kV or greater transmission lines constructed prior to 2008; or (2) in designated RMP corridors authorized for aboveground transmission lines. Do not count Transmission lines routed using one or more of the two criteria listed above against the DDCT 5 percent disturbance cap. Consider new transmission lines greater than 115 kV proposed outside of these areas where it can be demonstrated that declines in Greater Sage-Grouse populations could be avoided through project design and/or mitigation. These projects will be subject to the density and disturbance restrictions for PHMAs. Incorporate the <i>Framework for Sage-grouse Impact Analysis for Interstate Transmission Lines</i> (BLM 2012b) and other appropriate	Designate ROW corridors as shown on Map 3-24. PHMAs are designated as avoidance areas for high voltage transmission line and pipeline ROWs. All authorizations in these areas must comply with the conservation measures outlined in this Approved RMP, including the RDFs and avoidance criteria presented in 2019 Wyoming GrSG ARPMA Appendix B, <i>Required Design Features and Best Management Practices</i>. Within PHMAs, specific to management for Greater Sage-Grouse, all RMPs are amended as follows: New Transmission Lines (greater than 115 kV): Allow new transmission lines greater than 115 kV in PHMA only (1) when located within 0.5 miles or less of an existing 115 kV or greater transmission lines constructed prior to 2008; or (2) in designated RMP corridors authorized for aboveground transmission lines. Do not count Transmission lines routed using one or more of the two criteria listed above against the DDCT 5 percent disturbance cap. Consider new transmission lines greater than 115 kV proposed outside of these areas where it can be demonstrated that declines in Greater Sage-Grouse populations could be avoided through project design and/or mitigation. These projects will be subject to the density and disturbance restrictions for PHMAs. Incorporate the <i>Framework for Sage-grouse Impact Analysis for Interstate Transmission Lines</i> (BLM 2012b) and other appropriate documents into the review of transmission line	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
documents into the review of transmission line proposals, consistent with the three routing criteria described above. For new projects within PHMAs that may require future utility lines, including distribution and transmission lines or pipelines, include the proposed utility lines in their DDCT as part of the proposed disturbance. Count lines permitted, but not located in the above mentioned routes or a designated corridor, toward the 5 percent disturbance calculation (line distance is equal to the anticipated construction footprint or construction ROW width multiplied by length and includes all access roads, staging area, and other surface disturbance associated with construction outside of the construction ROW). New Electric Distribution Lines (less than 115 kV): Require burial of new electric distribution lines where economically feasible. If not economically feasible, distribution lines may be authorized when effectively designed/mitigated to protect Greater Sage-Grouse and when the authorized officer determines that overhead installation is the action alternative with the fewest adverse impacts while still meeting the project need. Consider agricultural and residential lines to be adequately mitigated for Greater Sage-Grouse if constructed at least 0.6 mile from the lek perimeter with appropriate timing constraints and constructed to the latest APLIC standards. These ROW authorizations will be subject to approval by the State Director. Pipelines: Allow new pipelines through PHMAs: (1) within an RMP corridor currently authorized for that use or designated through future RMP amendments; or (2) constructed in or adjacent to existing utilities (buried and aboveground) or roads. Pipelines constructed in RMP corridors or adjacent to existing utilities or roads will require completion of a DDCT analysis for baseline data collection, but the project is not required to meet the threshold of 5 percent. However, within 6 months of the completion of construction, the project proponent will provide the authorized officer with as-built drawings so that the total	proposals, consistent with the three routing criteria described above. For new projects within PHMAs that may require future utility lines, including distribution and transmission lines or pipelines, include the proposed utility lines in their DDCT as part of the proposed disturbance. Count lines permitted, but not located in the above mentioned routes or a designated corridor, toward the 5 percent disturbance calculation (line distance is equal to the anticipated construction footprint or construction ROW width multiplied by length and includes all access roads, staging area, and other surface disturbance associated with construction outside of the construction ROW). New Electric Distribution Lines (less than 115 kV): Require burial of new electric distribution lines where economically feasible. If not economically feasible, distribution lines may be authorized when effectively designed/mitigated to protect Greater Sage-Grouse and when the authorized officer determines that overhead installation is the action alternative with the fewest adverse impacts while still meeting the project need. Consider agricultural and residential lines to be adequately mitigated for Greater Sage-Grouse if constructed at least 0.6 mile from the lek perimeter (or lek center if no perimeter is yet mapped) with appropriate timing constraints and constructed to the latest APLIC standards. These ROW authorizations will be subject to approval by the State Director. Pipelines: Allow new pipelines through PHMAs: (1) within an RMP corridor currently authorized for that use or designated through future RMP amendments; or (2) constructed in or adjacent to existing utilities (buried and aboveground) or roads. Pipelines constructed in RMP corridors or adjacent to existing utilities or roads will require completion of a DDCT analysis for baseline data collection, but the project is not required to meet the threshold of 5 percent. However, within 6 months of the completion of construction, the project proponent will provide the authorized officer with as-built drawings so that the total	(See above.)

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
disturbance within PHMAs can be calculated annually.	disturbance within PHMAs can be calculated annually.	(See above.)
MD 6029: Manage 1,767,274 acres as ROW avoidance areas (Map 3-24). Manage PHMAs as ROW avoidance areas for new ROW or SUA permits (799,391 acres). Within PHMAs where new ROWs/SUAs are necessary, locate new ROWs/SUAs within designated RMP corridors or adjacent to existing ROWs/SUAs where technically feasible. Subject to valid existing rights, including non-federal land inholdings, locate new, required ROWs/SUAs adjacent to existing ROWs/SUAs or where impacts to Greater Sage-Grouse are minimized. Work with proponents to design ROW applications to protect Greater Sage-Grouse.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 6040: Allow temporary closures to motorized vehicle use in areas that pose public health and safety risks, and/or where resource damage is imminent. In PHMAs and GHMAs, temporary closures will be considered in accordance with 43 CFR subpart 8364 (Closures and Restrictions); 43 CFR subpart 8351 (Designated National Area); 43 CFR subpart 6302 (Use of Wilderness Areas, Prohibited Acts, and Penalties); 43 CFR subpart 8341 (Conditions of Use). Temporary closure or restriction orders under these authorities are enacted at the discretion of the authorized officer to resolve management conflicts and protect persons, property, and public lands and resources. Where an authorized officer determines that off-highway vehicles are causing or will cause considerable adverse effects upon soil, vegetation, wildlife, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, historical resources, threatened or endangered species, wilderness suitability, other authorized uses, or other resources, the affected areas shall be immediately closed to the type(s) of vehicle causing the adverse effect until the adverse effects are eliminated and measures implemented to prevent recurrence. (43 CFR 8341.2) A closure or restriction order should be considered only after other management strategies and alternatives have been explored. The duration of temporary closure or restriction orders should be limited to 24 months or less; however, certain situations may require longer closures and/or iterative temporary closures. This may include closure of routes or areas.	No changes made.	No change proposed.
MD 6054: Design recreational sites, recreation facility development, and recreational access to avoid riparian habitat areas or develop and manage them in a manner that minimizes effects on riparian habitats. Construction of recreation facilities within PHMA must conform with the avoidance and minimization measures of this plan. If it is determined that these conservation measures are inadequate for the conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse, the BLM will require and ensure compensatory mitigation that provides a net conservation gain to the species.	Design recreational sites, recreation facility development, and recreational access to avoid riparian habitat areas or develop and manage them in a manner that minimizes effects on riparian habitats. Construction of recreation facilities within PHMA must conform to the avoidance and minimization measures of this plan. If it is determined that these conservation measures are inadequate for the conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse, the BLM will consider mitigation consistent with the applicable State management strategy (currently Governor of Wyoming's Executive Order 2015-4 (see also MD 4152)).	No change proposed.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
**MD 6198: In cooperation, consultation, and coordination with permittees/lessees, cooperators, and interested public, develop and implement appropriate livestock grazing management actions to enhance land health, improve forage for livestock, and meet other multiple use objectives by using the <i>Wyoming Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management</i>, other appropriate BMPs (see Appendix C, <i>Required Design Features and Best Management Practices</i> (p. 249)), and development of appropriate range improvements. The BLM will prioritize (1) the review of grazing permits/leases, in particular to determine if modification is necessary prior to renewal, and (2) the processing of grazing permits/leases in PHMAs. In setting workload priorities, precedence will be given to existing permits/leases in areas not meeting Land Health Standards, with focus on allotments containing riparian areas or wet meadows. The BLM may use other criteria for prioritization to respond to urgent natural resource concerns (e.g., wildfire) and legal obligations. The BLM will collaborate with appropriate federal agencies, and the State of Wyoming as contemplated under EO 2013–3 (Wyoming Office of the Governor 2013), to 1) develop appropriate conservation objectives; (2) defined a framework for evaluating situations where Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives are not being achieved on federal land, to determine if a causal relationship exists between improper grazing (by wildlife or wild horses or livestock) and Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives; and 3) identify appropriate site-specific actions to achieve Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives within the framework.	In cooperation, consultation, and coordination with permittees/lessees, cooperators, and interested public, develop and implement appropriate livestock grazing management actions to enhance land health, improve forage for livestock, and meet other multiple use objectives by using the <i>Wyoming Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management</i>, other appropriate BMPs (see 2019 Wyoming GrSG ARMPA Appendix B, <i>Required Design Features and Best Management Practices</i>), and development of appropriate range improvements. The BLM will prioritize (1) the review of grazing permits/leases, in particular to determine if modification is necessary prior to renewal, and (2) the processing of grazing permits/leases in PHMAs. In setting workload priorities, precedence will be given to existing permits/leases in areas not meeting Land Health Standards, with focus on allotments containing riparian areas or wet meadows. The BLM may use other criteria for prioritization to respond to urgent natural resource concerns (e.g., wildfire) and legal obligations. The BLM will collaborate with appropriate federal agencies, and the State of Wyoming as contemplated under EO 2013–3 (Wyoming Office of the Governor 2013), to 1) develop appropriate conservation objectives; (2) defined a framework for evaluating situations where Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives are not being achieved on federal land, to determine if a causal relationship exists between improper grazing (by wildlife or wild horses or livestock) and Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives; and 3) identify appropriate site-specific actions to achieve Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives within the framework.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
*MD 6202: Utilize a rangeland health assessment, resource monitoring, or analysis to determine if livestock grazing adjustments in amounts, kinds, or season are necessary. The NEPA analysis for renewals and modifications of livestock grazing permits/leases that include lands within PHMAs will include specific management thresholds based on Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Objectives Table (Table 2.7, “Greater Sage-Grouse Seasonal Habitat Objectives” (p. 22)) and Land Health Standards (43 CFR 4180.2) and one or more defined responses that will allow the authorizing officer to make adjustments to livestock grazing that have already been subjected to NEPA analysis. Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Objectives Table (Table 2.7, “Greater Sage-Grouse Seasonal Habitat Objectives” (p. 22)), Land Health Standards (43 CFR 4180.2) and ecological site potential, and one or more defined responses that will allow the authorizing officer to make adjustments to livestock grazing that have already been subjected to NEPA analysis.	Within PHMA, if monitoring data show the wildlife/special status species standard has not been met nor progress being made toward meeting that standard, there would be an evaluation and a determination made as to the cause. If it is determined that the current authorized livestock use is a significant causal factor in failing to achieve the wildlife/special status species standards, the BLM would address the achievement or progress toward achieving the LHSs (43 CFR 4180.2) and, if needed, Greater Sage-Grouse habitat maintenance or improvement. When NEPA analysis is required for a specific implementation action, one alternative would include mechanisms to make adjustments to meet or make progress toward meeting the wildlife/special status species standard. The analysis should also identify the BLM-approved data collection methodologies used for monitoring conditions and determining when adjustments are necessary. If current grazing management meets land health standards and provides for Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, there would be no need to analyze an alternative for Greater Sage-Grouse. Authorized uses in PHMA that incorporate habitat objectives for Greater Sage-Grouse must develop desired conditions based on Greater Sage-Grouse habitats present in the allotment and the ecological potential of sites that supports these habitats. Metrics used to monitor for objectives must be developed and inform the wildlife/SSS portion of the Standards for Healthy Rangelands. Within PHMA, seasonal habitat objectives for Greater Sage-Grouse apply only to those habitats delineated within an allotment during the specific season (e.g., breeding season objectives during breeding season). Data needed to inform the relationship between the authorized use and habitat condition would come from sample locations that appropriately reflect the impact of the authorized use on habitat conditions. Data points should fall within Greater Sage-Grouse seasonal habitat areas and be collected on ecological sites that have the potential to produce Greater Sage-Grouse habitat.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2014/2015 Approved RMPs	2019 Approved RMPs	Potential Change in 2023 Plan
MD 6214: Allotments within PHMAs, focusing on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows, will be prioritized for field checks to help ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the grazing permits. Field checks could include monitoring for actual use, utilization, and use supervision.	No changes made.	Potential change under Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6.

2.20.2 Relevant Appendices

The following table shows which appendices from the 2015 and 2019 plans have management direction that may change through this RMP amendment. If 2019 is not listed in the year, then no change was made to the appendix between the 2015 and 2019 plans. The 2015 Appendices can be found on [the Bighorn Basin RMP ePlanning website](#). The 2019 Appendices can be found on [the Wyoming GRSG ePlanning website](#).

ARMPA Appendix Name	Year	Potential for Change in 2023 Plan
A: Maps	2015	Yes
A: Approved RMP Amendment with Management Goals, Objectives, and Decisions	2019	Yes
B: Oil and Gas Lease Notices and Lease Stipulations; including Exception, Modification, and Waiver Criteria	2015	Yes
C: Required Design Features and Best Management Practices	2015	Yes
B: Required Design Features	2019	Yes
D: Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management Strategy	2015	Yes
C: Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management Strategy	2019	Yes
E: Laws, Regulations, Policies, and Guidance	2015	No
F: Wyoming Bureau of Land Management Mitigation Guidelines for Surface-Disturbing and Disruptive Activities	2015	No
G: Federal Oil and Gas Operations on Split-Estate Lands	2015	No
H: Monitoring and Evaluation	2015	No
I: Land Disposal and Acquisition	2015	No
J: Recreation Management	2015	No
K: Biological Opinion	2015	No
L: Implementation	2015	No
M: Bighorn Basin Air Resource Management Plan	2015	No
N: Seasonal Raptor Stipulations for All Surface-Disturbing and Disruptive Activities	2015	No
O: Livestock Grazing	2015	No
P: Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision Crosswalk Tables	2015	No