

Alternative Overview

Alternative 1

Would re-adopt the habitat management area (HMA) boundaries and applicable management actions from the 2015 planning efforts.

Alternative 2 (No Action)

Would maintain HMA boundaries and applicable management actions from the 2019 Amendments (Montana/Dakotas would maintain Alternative 1).

Alternative 3

Would focus on preservation and includes designation of ACECs. Would update HMA boundaries, but all areas would be managed as PHMA, which would be closed to most new developments.

Alternative 4

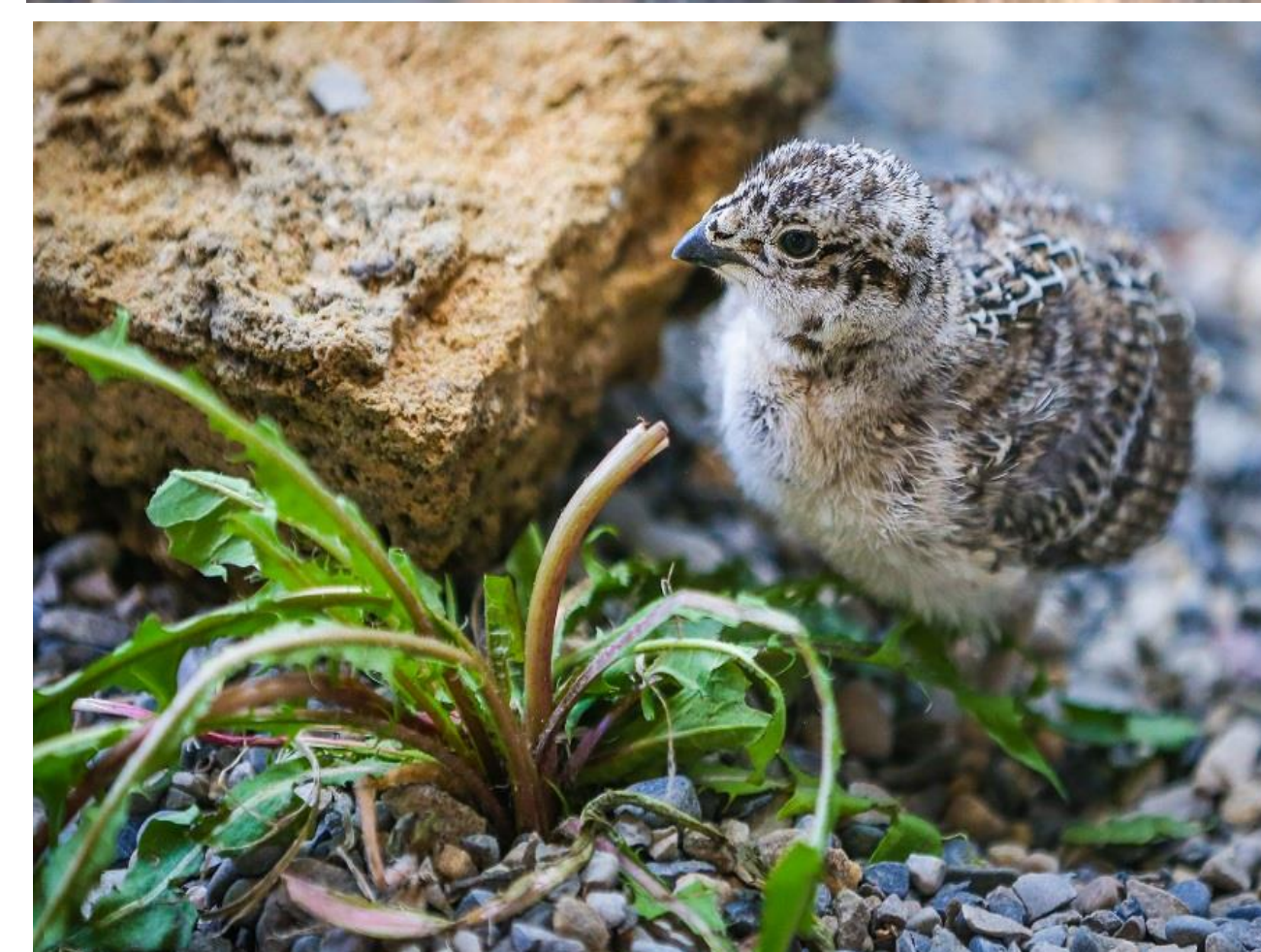
Would update HMA boundaries and management based on new science. Surface disturbance would largely be avoided, but there would be situational allowances for development.

Alternative 5 (Preferred Alternative)

Similar to Alternative 4, but adopts State boundaries as HMAs, if available, and additional flexibility is provided for site-specific development. Expands potential use of compensatory mitigation.

Alternative 6

Same as Alternative 5, but with the addition of ACECs with more protections than Alternative 5 HMAs.



Key Details of the Preferred Alternative

Habitat management areas

- Updates habitat management areas using current science
- Priority Habitat Management Areas are the highest priority and have corresponding management
- Provides for consideration of non-habitat areas within HMAs if specific criteria are met

Habitat objectives

- Multi-scale qualitative objectives informed by site-specific science and data

Disturbance cap

- Adjusts evaluation unit to a biologically-defined area
- Allow for exceptions to consider local conditions

Adaptive management

- Consistent thresholds across political boundaries with flexibility to consider state or local data, targeting responses to the identified cause

Wind, Solar and Associated Transmission

- Avoidance (instead of closed), for more flexibility while providing for protection

Oil and Gas Leasing and Development

- Does not close new areas to leasing, and clarifies how to apply waivers, exceptions, and modifications as requested by the states