

# BLM Colorado: State Specific Circumstances

*Increasing Consistency across resources and incorporating lessons learned*

Colorado is on the periphery of GRSG range and has variable topography leading to naturally fragmented habitats. Dramatic changes in topography may be within standard lek buffer distances (e.g.- extreme topography in Parachute Piceance Roan (PPR) population). Topography, ecology, and plant communities vary by elevation, leading to differences between population areas. Colorado typically does not see large wildfires in sagebrush ecosystems or conversion to agriculture to the same degree as other states.

## Management Scale

- Colorado manages populations and sub-populations by Management Zone (MZ).The BLM uses the CO MZs to calculate project-scale disturbance and density caps. The Colorado MZs are biologically driven units delineated by sage-grouse use, topographic and other natural features, differences in ecological potential, and differences in issues affecting GRSG.

## Lek Buffers

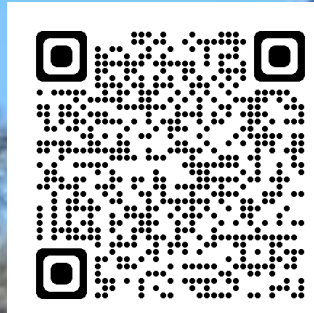
- The BLM will clarify the activity period for the leks being included in management decisions. Previous plans were based on a 5-year time period. Most other states use a 10-year period because GRSG populations generally follow 9- to 10-year population cycle. The BLM will analyze use of the “occupied” lek definition from the previous plans, which follows the 10-year period.

## Consistency Across Resources

- The BLM will analyze the use of more consistent criteria for land uses such as fluid mineral permitting and right-of-way authorizations. By using consistent criteria, the BLM intends to ease plan conformance and coordination across resource uses.

## Lessons Learned

- The BLM is including clarifications to several management decisions because of lessons learned during implementation of the previous GRSG plans. The BLM will clarify management decisions in the Fluid Mineral and Land and Realty sections. Lessons learned primarily involve administrative clarifications and remedies and are not likely to impact GRSG habitat, other resources, or resource uses.



<https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2016719/570>

