Montana/Dakotas BLM: State Specific Circumstances

Increasing Consistency among Montana-Dakotas BLM Plans and State Conservation Approaches

Separate planning efforts resulted in both wording and management-action inconsistencies among the nine Resource Management Plans.

Alternatives 4-6 address:

- Consistency of sage-grouse management among Field Office RMPs
- Unique circumstances of peripheral populations and higher proportion of leks in GHMA
- Recent plan evaluation recommendations and lessons learned from implementation
- Adding conservation measures in Butte and Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument RMPs

Habitat
Management
Areas (HMA)

Adjustments to boundaries including unique HMAs:

- **Restoration HMAs (RHMA)**: Regions with historical, ongoing or imminent impact or development that contain high-quality GRSG habitat (may require specific management)
- Connectivity HMAs (RHMA): Regions of connectivity important to facilitate the movement of Greater Sage-Grouse and maintain ecological processes, including between priority populations, adjacent states, and across international borders

Uniform Objectives

- Utilize cooperative planning, implementation, and monitoring to achieve desired conditions and leverage funding opportunities and availability
- Maintain, improve, and restore sagebrush habitats (e.g., conifer removal) to increase habitat availability and quality for sage-grouse, sagebrush obligates, and other sagebrush species
- Limit overall surface disturbance and disruption through factors such as the reduction, co-location, and siting of activities (neutral or beneficial uses)

Consistent Management

- Common fluid mineral stipulation language throughout habitats in Montana/Dakotas
- Adjustments in land use plan allocations for consistency between RMPs
- Universal approach to address risks from West Nile Virus
- Consistency with current adopted BLM conservation strategies and using conservation plans, as revised or updated, from partners

Clarifications in Southwestern Montana

Remove decisions related to wild horse & burros that only apply in Idaho

Clarify the Wildland Fire and Invasive Species
Assessments (FIAT) tool does not apply in Montana

Remove decisions with key habitat management actions (an Idaho-specific GRSG habitat effort)





