

GREATER SAGE-GROUSE

Draft Resource Management Plan Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement

Utah BLM State-Specific Circumstance – General Habitat Management Areas

General Habitat Management Areas (GHMA): lands that are or have the potential to become occupied seasonal or year-round habitat outside of PHMA, managed to sustain GRSg populations. These areas are defined differentially by state wildlife management agencies, but generally are of poorer GRSg habitat quality with reduced occupancy when compared to PHMA.

GHMA

In 2019 GRSg ARMPA, the BLM increased habitat management area alignment with the State of Utah’s Sage-Grouse Management Areas (SGMAs) and prioritized the importance of management prescriptions on PHMA.

Across the Alternatives, GHMA in Utah accounts for 0-10% of the 380 occupied leks across the state.

Alternative 1	Alternatives 2 & 3	Alternative 4	Alternatives 5 & 6
<p>Includes an objective for net conservation gain.</p> <p>The BLM would avoid, minimize, and require compensation for impacts by applying beneficial mitigation actions.</p> <p>Lek buffer-distances would be applied as 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).</p> <p>Required design features would be applied to fluid mineral development activities/projects when applicable.</p> <p>See MA-SSS-5 for full text.</p>	<p>MA-SSS-5: No similar action.</p>	<p>Similar to Alternative 1, but management would aim to meet a minimum standard of no net loss for discretionary actions that can result in habitat loss and degradation. See MA-SSS-5 for full text.</p>	<p>MA-SSS-5: Same as Alternative 4.</p>
<p>MA-SSS-6 Sage-Grouse Management Outside PHMA/GHMA</p> <p>Plan includes guidance for areas within State of Utah SGMA and USFWS priority areas for conservation (PAC), as well as adjacent to PHMA outside these areas.</p> <p>Outside of PHMA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Implement measures to mitigate impacts.➤ Prior to site specific authorizations, the BLM will evaluate habitat conditions and may require surveys to determine if the project area contains GRSg habitat.➤ 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.➤ If an area is determined to be GRSg habitat (e.g., nesting, brood-rearing, winter, transition), mitigation will be considered if needed.➤ Avoid and minimize effects from discrete anthropogenic disturbances in areas that have been treated with the intent of improving or creating new GRSg habitat. <p>Outside of PHMA, but within SGMAs and PACs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Avoid removal of sagebrush and minimize development that creates a physical barrier to GRSg movement. Exceptions would be made for vegetation treatments to benefit Utah prairie dog.➤ Consider noise and permanent structure stipulations around leks.	<p>MA-SSS-6: Sage-Grouse Management Outside PHMA</p> <p>Outside PHMA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Implement GRSg management actions included in the RMPs and project-specific mitigation measures associated with decisions that predated the 2015 amendments.➤ Within State of Utah SGMA and USFWS PACs, as well as adjacent to PHMA outside these areas, consider impacts on GRSg and the BLM may implement measures to mitigate impacts on GRSg populations within adjacent 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.➤ Provide that acres of GRSg seasonal habitat are replaced by creating/improving GRSg habitat within PHMA. <p>Outside of PHMA, but within SGMAs and PACs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Avoid removal of sagebrush and minimize development that creates a physical barrier to GRSg movement. Exceptions would be made for vegetation treatments to benefit Utah prairie dog.➤ Consider noise and permanent structure stipulations around leks.	<p>MA-SSS-6: Same as Alternative 2 but applying management to areas outside GHMA based on amended GHMA boundaries.</p>	<p>MA-SSS-6: Same as Alternative 4.</p>

