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## Appendix 20

Changes between Draft RMP Amendment/Draft EIS and  
Proposed RMP Amendment/Final EIS

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# **Appendix 20. Changes Between Draft RMP Amendment/Draft EIS and Proposed RMP Amendment/Final EIS**

This appendix provides a summary of the primary changes between the Draft RMP Amendment/Draft EIS (Draft RMPA/EIS) and this Proposed RMP Amendment/Final EIS (Proposed RMPA/Final EIS) by document section (chapters and appendices).

## **CHAPTER 1, INTRODUCTION**

Chapter 1 has been updated to provide new information on the BLM's Proposed RMPA/Final EIS. Specifically, Chapter 1 has been updated to refine and clarify the Purpose and Need. Information previously in this chapter regarding alternative management approaches considered but not analyzed in detail has been moved to Chapter 2 and included in the Alternatives Considered but not Analyzed in Detail Table 2-1. Two new sections have been added to this Chapter: Section 1.7, summarizing changes between the Draft RMPA/EIS and this Proposed RMPA/Final EIS, and Section 1.9, which details how the BLM anticipates applying this RMPA to ongoing actions. Section 1.8, summarizing consistency with state and local land use plans, was updated based on input received on the Draft RMPA/EIS. Editorial changes were also made throughout Chapter 1 to improve clarity.

## **CHAPTER 2, ALTERNATIVES**

Chapter 2 has been updated to present the goals, objectives, allocations, and management direction of the Proposed RMPA, presented by Habitat Management Area designation and resource topic. The chapter summarizes the alternatives considered in the Draft RMPA/EIS, but the full description of Alternatives 1-6 from the Draft EIS has been moved, with clarifying edits in response to cooperating agency and public comments, to Appendix 21. Chapter 2 also now provides an updated table of alternatives considered but not analyzed in detail and a summary table of the alternatives.

## **CHAPTER 3, AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

The BLM has clarified language and incorporated new information since the Draft RMPA/EIS to reflect better or more current information, where available and germane to the current conditions and analysis. Most notably, such updates have been made in Sections 3.2, Greater Sage-Grouse; 3.5, Fish and Wildlife; 3.6, Special Status Species; 3.7, Wild Horses and Burros; 3.9, Lands and Realty (Including Renewable Energy); 3.11, ACECs and RNAs; 3.12 Social and Economic Conditions (Including Environmental Justice); 3.14, Soil Resources; and 3.15, Water Resources.

Additional literature was reviewed and added to the baseline information, particularly in Sections 3.2, Greater Sage-Grouse; 3.12 Social and Economic Conditions (Including Environmental Justice); 3.14, Soil Resources; and 3.15, Water Resources.

## **CHAPTER 4, ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Analysis of Alternatives 1 through 6 has been moved to Appendix 10, and the state-specific Socioeconomic and Environmental Justice analysis for all alternatives (including the Proposed RMP Amendment) has been moved to Appendix 18. Chapter 4 now includes a summary of environmental consequences table, and for each resource, the nature and type of effects, likely direct and indirect impacts on the human and natural

environment that could occur from implementing the BLM Proposed RMP Amendment presented in Chapter 2, Alternatives, and cumulative effects.

The BLM has clarified language and incorporated new information since the Draft RMPA/EIS to reflect better or more current information, where available and germane to the current conditions and analysis. The BLM updated all sections of Chapter 4 with such changes.

## **CHAPTER 5, CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION**

The BLM updated Chapter 5 to include information related to ongoing consultation and coordination efforts that have progressed since the Draft RMPA/EIS. Specifically, additional information has been added, summarizing formal consultation efforts with Federally recognized Tribes and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act, and coordination efforts with State Historic Preservation Officers, consistent with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Sections have been updated that detail BLM's public outreach efforts and coordination with cooperating agencies on the Draft RMPA/EIS. Two new sections have been added in Sections 5.5 and 5.6 detailing the BLM's next steps, including the protest period on the Proposed RMPA/Final EIS and Governors consistency review, and BLM's intent to issue Approved RMPA/Records of Decisions for each state in the planning area, have also been added. Refinements were made to the list of preparers.

## **APPENDIX I, MAPS**

Maps in Appendix I were updated based on refinements to alternatives considered in the Draft RMPA/EIS. New maps were added that display the BLM's Proposed RMPA.

## **APPENDIX 2, COMPARISON OF PROPOSED RMP AMENDMENT TO EXISTING GREATER SAGE-GROUSE RMP MANAGEMENT DIRECTION**

Appendix 2 was updated to provide a description of changes between BLM's existing RMP management direction for GRSG and the BLM's Proposed RMPA, including the appendices from prior planning efforts. For each state, tables now display BLM's management direction in the 2015 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment, 2019 BLM GRSG Approved RMP Amendment, and a summary of the Type of Change to Existing Management Direction that would be made by the Proposed RMPA: no change, partial revision, complete revision, or new direction. Consistent with these updates, the appendix was renamed from "Existing Greater Sage-Grouse RMP Management Direction" to "Comparison of Proposed RMP Amendment to Existing Greater Sage-Grouse RMP Management Direction".

## **APPENDIX 3, GREATER SAGE-GROUSE HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREA STATE-BY-STATE MAPPING STRATEGIES**

This appendix has been updated to reflect changes made to GRSG HMA mapping strategies since the Draft RMPA/EIS. The HMA delineation approaches utilized in the Proposed RMPA for all HMA types, both rangewide and state specific, are identified.

For the rangewide HMAs, clarifying language has been made to the descriptions of Priority Habitat Management Areas (PHMA) and General Habitat Management Areas (GHMA) to better describe how BLM identified these areas and BLM's management intent. Based on internal review and input received on the Draft RMPA/EIS, BLM has identified areas within PHMA that require additional protections to support conservation of GRSG habitat, referred to as PHMA with limited exceptions. Appendix 3 details the process and criteria BLM used to identify PHMA with limited exceptions and provides a state-by-state summary of the areas identified as PHMA with limited exceptions.

In Oregon and Nevada/California, HMAs were refined based on updated data (from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and US Geological Survey, respectively) that became available between the publication of the Draft RMPA/EIS and the Proposed RMPA/Final EIS.

#### **APPENDIX 4, LEK STATUS DEFINITION COMPARISON**

In 2022 the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) Sage and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse Technical Committee published a list of lek definitions to allow for more consistent data sharing and analyses across the range of GRSG. All the state wildlife agencies have adopted these new definitions. The BLM has adopted these definitions to ensure consistency with the state wildlife agencies and provide consistent management direction when implementing habitat conservation and allocations across the planning area. This appendix compares the 2022 lek definitions adopted by the BLM and state wildlife agencies and compares them to previous definitions used in 2015 and 2019 by state.

#### **APPENDIX 5, EVALUATION OF AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN FOR GREATER SAGE-GROUSE HABITAT**

This appendix has been updated to provide a comprehensive review of the internally and externally nominated ACECs; the relevance and importance criteria evaluation process that was conducted for the nominated ACECs; and a summary the potential ACECs identified in the Draft EIS. The appendix also describes changes made in the ACECs analyzed between Draft and Final EIS, provides maps of the ACECs considered in each state, and describes the effects of the alternatives and the Proposed RMP Amendment on the 32 potential ACECs considered in Alternatives 3 and 6 in the Final EIS.

#### **APPENDIX 6, NTT, COT, AND USGS SCIENCE INCORPORATION**

This appendix clarifies the role of the NTT report, COT report and USGS science in developing this RMPA for GRSG. While both the NTT and COT reports provide conservation recommendations for GRSG and their habitats, neither was intended as the definitive directive for management. This appendix clarifies the role of these reports in the development of the GRSG RMPA.

#### **APPENDIX 7, GREATER SAGE-GROUSE MONITORING FRAMEWORK**

The BLM GRSG Monitoring Framework outlines how the BLM tracks sagebrush habitats across the planning area. The appendix provides the updated monitoring framework. Since implementing the monitoring efforts described in the original Monitoring Framework, new data has become available and new approaches to analyzing these data have been developed. This update maintains the existing measures included in the original document and expands upon them to include this new science. Measures for monitoring are identified at two scales: the rangewide scale and land use plan scale. The former will provide insight into habitat conditions and BLM management actions across jurisdictional boundaries which will, in turn, provide context to the smaller scale land use plan monitoring.

#### **APPENDIX 8, GREATER SAGE-GROUSE HABITAT INDICATORS AND BENCHMARKS**

The BLM uses the multi-scale Habitat Assessment Framework (HAF) to determine whether an area is likely to provide GRSG habitat, and if so, the quality of that habitat to inform management. The HAF (BLM TR 6710-1, as revised) provides a standardized, scientifically based methodology to assess sage-grouse habitat suitability at multiple scales (broad, mid, fine, and site-scales). Habitat suitability occurs along a gradient ranging from unsuitable to suitable and is rarely uniform within and across the scales. Using multi-scale evaluations is important for assessing GRSG habitat by considering the entire suite of conditions that contribute to high quality habitat, the success of past conservation actions, and prioritizing future land uses

and conservation actions. This appendix provides the updated habitat indicators and benchmarks used by the HAF, as adjusted by individual states to consider ecological differences across the species' range.

## **APPENDIX 9 TABLES AND FIGURES**

Tables and Figures in Appendix 9 were updated based on refinements to alternatives considered in the Draft RMPA/EIS. Several tables were removed since they were not used to inform the analysis. Several tables were consolidated and revised to provide more informative data by HMA category. New tables and figures were added that detail the BLM's Proposed RMPA.

## **APPENDIX 10, CHAPTER 4 METHODOLOGY, ASSUMPTIONS, INDICATORS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES FOR ALTERNATIVES 1-6**

Analyses for the draft alternatives (Alternatives 1 through 6) were moved to this appendix and adjusted based on public and internal comments. Notably, additional analysis of effects on ACECs was included in Section 10.11, Special Designations. Other changes were made in Sections 10.2 (Greater Sage-Grouse), 10.3 (Vegetation), 10.5 (Fish and Wildlife), 10.9 (Lands and Realty), 10.12 (Social and Economic Conditions (Including Environmental Justice)), 10.14 (Soil Resources), 10.15 (Water Resources), 10.18 (Lands with Wilderness Characteristics), and 10.19 (Recreation and Visitor Services).

## **APPENDIX 11, SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES**

Appendix 11 includes an updated list of special status species in the planning area and associated descriptions of preferred habitat. The BLM maintains a list of special status species across all taxa to for conservation consideration. Each BLM state office updates these lists as new information becomes available. These state lists were reviewed and compared to the planning area for this RMPA. Overlapping species were updated in this appendix.

## **APPENDIX 12, REASONABLY FORESEEABLE DEVELOPMENT SCENARIO**

The BLM revised the Wyoming section of the document to better reflect changes in the nature and type of development that has occurred in recent years. The changes also use information provided by Cooperating Agencies to improve the accuracy of the included information and analysis. Minor edits were made throughout the appendix to improve clarity.

## **APPENDIX 13, SOCIOECONOMIC BASELINE REPORT**

The BLM has clarified language to reflect better or more current information, where available and germane to the current conditions and analysis. The BLM updated the baseline information for wind and solar ROWs (in Section 3.4) and percentages of ranches by type (in Section 3.5) to reflect the latest and best available information.

## **APPENDIX 14, CUMULATIVE EFFECTS SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

BLM refined the list of state and local conservation plans detailed in Section 14.1 and the list of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions in Section 14.3 to reflect more current information and suggestions received during public comment of the Draft RMPA/EIS. BLM also adjusted the order of the sections and made editorial changes throughout this appendix to improve clarity.

## **APPENDIX 15, LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND DESIGN FEATURES AND SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

Minor editorial changes were made to improve clarity of Appendix 15.

## **APPENDIX 16, MONTANA/DAKOTAS OIL AND GAS LEASE STIPULATIONS**

The BLM has updated the appendix to include the oil and gas lease stipulations identified in the Proposed RMP Amendment.

## **APPENDIX 17, PROPOSED RMP AMENDMENT AND ANALYSIS OF KEY RESEARCH NATURAL AREAS IN OREGON**

The analysis in this appendix has been updated and now includes the Proposed RMPA. In the Proposed RMPA, the size of the area allocated as unavailable to grazing in the Mahogany Ridge key Research Natural Area (RNA) would change. The Proposed RMPA also includes exclusions near the North Ridge Bully Creek RNA, the South Ridge Bully Creek RNA, and the Spring Mountain RNA in vegetative communities identified as important for Greater Sage-grouse.

## **APPENDIX 18, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY AND STATE-SPECIFIC IMPACT ANALYSIS**

Analysis of the state-specific impacts on socioeconomic conditions and environmental justice populations were moved to this appendix for all alternatives (including the Proposed RMP Amendment). The BLM updated the description to include the assumptions and methodology used to calculate impacts on socioeconomic conditions from changes in revenue from rents and bonus bids, ad valorem taxes, sales and use taxes, and other local state taxes and fees.

The BLM has clarified language and incorporated new information since the Draft RMPA/EIS to reflect better or more current information, where available and germane to the impact analysis, specifically the state-specific socioeconomic impact analysis due to potential changes in oil and gas activity from BLM decisions, in Section 18.4.

## **APPENDIX 19, IDAHO BUFFERS AND REQUIRED DESIGN FEATURES**

This appendix has been updated to identify the buffer management direction for the Proposed RMP Amendment and include required design features management direction for all of the alternatives, including the Proposed RMP Amendment.

## **APPENDIX 20, CHANGES BETWEEN DRAFT RMP AMENDMENT/EIS AND PROPOSED RMP AMENDMENT/FINAL EIS**

This new appendix provides a summary of the primary changes between the Draft RMPA/Draft EIS and this Proposed RMP Amendment/Final EIS by document section (chapters and appendices).

## **APPENDIX 21, DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF DRAFT EIS ALTERNATIVES**

This new appendix provides the description of the six alternatives analyzed in the Draft EIS in the same manner they were presented in the Draft EIS. Some updates to the alternatives have been made in response to internal review and comments received from cooperating agencies and the public during the Draft EIS comment period. These updates include edits in the comparison of alternatives tables to improve the clarity of the description of the alternatives and updates to the Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Table 2-14.

## **APPENDIX 22, DRAFT RMPA/EIS PUBLIC OUTREACH AND RESPONSES TO SUBSTANTIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS**

This new appendix summarizes public outreach conducted on the Draft RMPA/EIS during the 90-day comment period. It also includes substantive comment summaries and general responses by topic, along with a list of commenters and the topics they provided comments on.

## **APPENDIX 23, CONSISTENCY WITH STATE AND LOCAL LAND USE PLANS**

This new appendix details known inconsistencies between the Proposed RMPA and federal, state, local, and Tribal plans.