Minerals

Mineral development, which includes fluid minerals like oil, gas, and geothermal, locatable minerals like gold, and saleable mineral materials like sand and gravel, can result in direct loss of Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, increase fragmentation, displace birds from preferred habitats, and decrease and isolate sage-grouse populations. Indirectly, mineral development can result in the loss of sage-grouse populations and habitat through the creation or expansion of new roads and other infrastructure.

Issue: What measures will the BLM and Forest Service put in place to protect Greater Sage-Grouse habitat from the effects of mineral development?

Management Actions

Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	Alternative F
· Maintain current management from 12 BLM and 2 Forest Service LUPs. · Fluid mineral leasing categories vary by planning area. · Most sage-grouse mapped occupied habitat is open to locatable and mineral material development. Stipulations vary by planning area.	· Close PPMAs (12,693,500 acres) to new fluid mineral leasing, mineral material sales, non-energy solid leasable mineral exploration and development, and recommend for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry · Manage PGMAs (4,664,700 acres) as open to new fluid mineral leasing, mineral material sales, non-energy solid leasable mineral activities, and locatable mineral exploration and development. · Apply required design features as conditions of approval to all authorizations in PPMA, including authorizations associated with existing leases. · Do not allow surface occupancy on existing federal leases in PPMA (exceptions apply).	· Close PPMAs (17,732,900 acres) to new fluid mineral leasing. · Recommend PPMAs for withdrawal from mineral entry. · Close PPMAs to mineral material sales. · Close PPMAs to non-energy solid leasable mineral exploration and development. · Apply required design features as conditions of approval to all authorizations in PPMAs, including authorizations associated with existing leases. · Do not allow surface occupancy on existing federal leases in PPMAs (exceptions apply).	· For fluid minerals, apply seasonal restrictions on exploratory drilling to prohibit surface-disturbing activities in winter habitat and during the lekking, nesting, and early brood-rearing season in all PPMAs · Manage 10,333,600 acres of PPMAs as open to oil and gas leasing, but with a no surface occupancy (NSO) stipulation. Allow exceptions to the NSO stipulation in PGMAs. · Manage 11,240,500 acres of PPMAs as open to geothermal leasing, but with a no surface occupancy (NSO) stipulation. Allow exceptions to the NSO stipulation in PGMAs. · Manage 11,348,800 acres of PPMAs and 4,713,300 acres as open to locatable mineral exploration and development. · Close PPMAs and PGMAs to mineral material sales and non-energy solid leasable mineral exploration and development.	· Manage 9,493,800 acres of PPMAs and 2,106,300 acres of PGMAs as open to fluid mineral leasing, but with the requirement to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to GRSG habitat. · Manage 9,493,800 acres of PPMAs and 2,106,300 acres of PGMAs as open to locatable mineral exploration and development, mineral material sales, and non-energy solid leasable mineral activities.	· Close PPMAs and PGMAs (17,732,900 acres) to new fluid mineral leasing. · Recommend PPMAs (12,693,500 acres) for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry and closure to mineral materials sales and non-energy leasable activities. · Manage PGMAs (4,664,700 acres) as open to new locatable mineral exploration and development, mineral material sales, and non-energy leasable activities.

Photo Credit: State of Nevada

Nevada and Northeastern California Greater Sage-Grouse Draft LUPA/EIS