
Appendix B

Greater Sage-Grouse Management in Existing Resource Management Plans

APPENDIX B

GREATER SAGE-GROUSE MANAGEMENT IN EXISTING RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS

Resource programs in the Oregon Sub-region Resource Management Plans (RMPs) being amended by this RMP Amendment (RMPA)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) contain management that influences Greater Sage-Grouse and their habitat. The management is not common to all Oregon Sub-region RMPs, but rather specific to certain RMPs. Resource programs that involve RMP-specific management include land use planning elements that may be, for example, localized to a particular area or involve prominent issues. It is important to note that the prominence of an issue can change over time. As a result, older RMPs may have minimal resource program management for issues that have recently become of greater concern.

BLM RMPs contain a set of decisions that establish management goals, objectives, and direction for land within an administrative area, as prescribed under the planning provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). The management direction is designed to achieve RMP objectives, which identify specific desired outcomes for resources. It includes management measures that will guide day-to-day and future activities. It also includes project design features, stipulations, best management practices, standard operating procedures, guidelines, required processes and prescriptions, and administrative designations (such as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern [ACECs] or proposed withdrawals). Oregon Sub-region RMPs contain directions that purposefully manage Greater Sage-Grouse and their habitat. The management direction is identified in the following table under the BLM resource programs.

Appendix B. Greater Sage-Grouse Management in Existing Resource Management Plans

Plan	GRSG Topic	Description of Management	Page
AMU	General Habitat	The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) program documents or interagency plan/NEPA documents and decisions applicable to the Andrews Management Unit (AMU) (and Cooperative Management and Protection Area) include the following: Greater Sage-Grouse and Sagebrush-Steppe Ecosystems Management Guidelines (DOI et al. 2000b).	9
AMU	General Habitat	Actions to diversify structure and composition of selected nonnative seedings will be implemented when consistent with other resource objectives.	30
AMU	General Habitat	In managing uplands, the BLM needs to consider the consequences and relationships of management to life history needs of wildlife. The Executive Order on the Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to protect Migratory Birds, the Greater Sage-Grouse and Sagebrush-Steppe Ecosystem Management Guidelines, the BLM National (or Oregon/Washington state level) Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy, and the Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy for Oregon (when approved), give direction to protect or restore habitat for these species, many of which are Special Status Species.	35
AMU	General Habitat	Areas used by Greater Sage-Grouse and other Special Status Species will be identified in efforts orchestrated with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) or the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Habitat management will be coordinated across agency boundaries.	37
AMU	General Habitat	Unless specifically needed as a vegetation management tool, the utilization level as measured at the end of the growing season will not exceed 60 percent on nonnative seedings and 50 percent on native herbaceous forage plants, on a pasture average basis, except where lower use levels may be necessary to prevent detrimental effects on habitat quality for sage-grouse.	54
AMU	General Habitat	Increase species and structural diversity at the plant community and landscape levels in the big sagebrush communities. Provide multiple successional stages within the landscape.	30
AMU	General Habitat	Manage big sagebrush, quaking aspen, and western juniper plant communities to meet habitat requirements for wildlife.	30
AMU	General Habitat	Manage big sagebrush communities to meet the life history requirements of sagebrush-dependent species.	30
AMU	General Habitat	Big sagebrush, quaking aspen, and western juniper plant communities will be managed for the benefit of all wildlife and to meet the DRC in most habitats throughout the AMU.	31
AMU	General Habitat	Throughout the AMU, approximately 5,000 acres of nonnative seedings and most native vegetation in deer winter range, where vegetative species diversity is low, will be interseeded to establish native plant species. Where appropriate, other desirable nonnative plant species could be used. Livestock grazing may be used to suppress competition and allow sagebrush establishment. In areas to be reseeded, coordination with permittees, the ODFW, and the USFWS will occur to set livestock grazing prescriptions on a site-specific basis.	34
AMU	General Habitat; Habitat Fragmentation	Big sagebrush habitat will be managed for shrub cover, structure, and forage values for the benefit of game and nongame wildlife. The DRC will include shrub cover values that meet or exceed the requirements described in Wildlife Habitats in Managed Rangelands (1984) and include big sagebrush distribution over a large enough area to avoid the adverse impacts of habitat fragmentation. The DRC will strive for big sagebrush overstories that emphasize the presence of mature, light-to moderately-stocked shrub canopies capable of supporting diverse herbaceous understories and are present in a variety of spatial arrangements important to wildlife. This will apply to most native range or seeded areas in big sagebrush habitats throughout the AMU.	31
AMU	General Habitat; Sagebrush Removal	(Restoration Seed Types and Mixes): In Greater Sage-Grouse habitat or deer winter range or both, interseeding, preferably using locally obtained seed, to establish native plant species onto approximately 5,000 acres of nonnative seedings throughout the AMU will be utilized where vegetative species diversity is low. The term "low species diversity" means conditions in seeded areas that are predominantly crested wheatgrass, or that have reverted to cheatgrass dominance, or few herbaceous plants with an overstory of sagebrush. Other desirable nonnative species could be used in	30

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		the seeding mix. Livestock grazing could be used to suppress competition and allow sagebrush establishment. In areas to be reseeded, coordination with permittees, the ODFW, and the USFWS will occur to set livestock grazing prescriptions on a site-specific basis. Emphasis of this project includes establishment of seedings on the north and west sides of Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMPA). Brushbeating of sagebrush in a mosaic pattern may be allowed on 50 percent of seeded areas where brush cover is high.	
AMU	General Habitat	Big sagebrush habitat will be managed for the benefit of Special Status Species and to meet the DRC in most big sagebrush habitats throughout the AMU. Big sagebrush habitat will be managed in accordance with the Migratory Bird Executive Order, the Greater Sage-Grouse and Sagebrush-Steppe Ecosystem Management Guidelines, the BLM National (or OR/WA State level) Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy and the Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy for Oregon when approved.	37
Baker	General Habitat	Habitat Management Plans (HMPs) will be developed for economically important wildlife species, including mule deer, antelope, bighorn sheep, and grouse. Primary emphasis of many of the plans will be ensuring the availability of palatable shrubs and cover for deer on crucial winter ranges in Baker County. Benefits will also accrue for many nongame species as a result of these habitat enhancement projects.	18
Baker	General Habitat	Improve upland habitat conditions for sage-grouse, antelope, and mule deer.	82
Baker	General Habitat	Improve and maintain, where suitable, wet meadows for sage-grouse and antelope.	82
Brothers-Lapine	General Habitat	HMPs will be written for high priority wildlife habitats, These plans will detail how those habitats will be improved or maintained. Plans for bald eagles are expected to be written during this planning cycle.	97
Lakeview	General Habitat	Upland native shrub steppe communities will be managed to attain a trend toward the desired range of conditions based on management objectives and site potential. Management actions will maintain the condition of those native communities where vegetation composition and structure meet desired range of conditions.	28
Lakeview	General Habitat	Equal emphasis will be placed on game and nongame wildlife habitat needs in sagebrush steppe, forest, woodland, and other priority habitats. To the extent possible and practical, wildlife community connectivity and interrelationships will be emphasized in most habitats. This approach will stress landscape or ecosystem management and be distinctly different from single-species management emphasis.	50
Lakeview	General Habitat/ Habitat Fragmentation	Big sagebrush habitat will be managed for shrub cover, structure, and forage values for the benefit of game and nongame wildlife. The desired range of conditions will include shrub cover values that meet or exceed the requirements described in "Wildlife Habitats in Managed Rangelands" (Thomas and Maser 1986) and provide big sagebrush distribution over a large enough area to avoid the adverse impacts of habitat fragmentation. Will strive to provide big sagebrush overstories that emphasize the presence of mature, light-to moderately stocked shrub canopies, and that are present in a variety of spatial arrangements important to wildlife.	unknown
Lakeview	General Habitat	Management of wildfire, prescribed fire, livestock grazing, wild horses, western juniper, invasive vegetation, vegetation treatments, land tenure, recreation, predators, and West Nile virus within current greater sage-grouse habitat will follow the guidelines outlined in the <i>Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy for Oregon: A Plan to Maintain and Enhance Populations and Habitat</i> " (ODFW 2005, p. 70-87), to the extent it conforms with other management direction in this RMP. However, the energy and minerals and right-of-way management direction described elsewhere in this RMP will be retained and applied to sage-grouse breeding habitat only (refer to Lands and Realty section, p. 93-94 and Map L-8 and the Energy and Minerals section, p. 88-92 and Maps M-8, M-9, and M-10).	5 as maintained
Lakeview	General Habitat	Management will emphasize achieving desired range of conditions that maintain, enhance, or restore habitats or populations of special status species regardless of their economic status. All special status species habitats or populations will be managed so that BLM actions will not contribute toward the need to list the species as Federally threatened or endangered.	52

Plan	GRSG Topic	Description of Management	Page
Lakeview	Habitat Fragmentation	Management of large blocks of sagebrush steppe will also be done with migratory landbirds in mind. Management will focus on existing shrub steppe in high ecological condition on a no-net-loss basis and improve degraded habitats. Habitat fragmentation will be reduced through active restoration of degraded rangelands and changes in management activities.	50
Southeastern Oregon	General Habitat Objective	Manage big sagebrush cover in seedings and on native rangeland to meet the life history requirements of sagebrush-dependent wildlife.	40
Southeastern Oregon	General Habitat	Objective 2: Manage big sagebrush cover in seedings and on native rangeland to meet the life history requirements of sagebrush-dependent wildlife. Management will strive for greater than 70 percent or more of the total potential sagebrush habitat to achieve desired range future conditions (DRFCs) in each resource area over the long term. Native range and most seedings will be managed to meet the requirements of game and a host of nongame species. Management will be to maintain or establish diversity, mosaics, and connectivity of sagebrush between geographic areas at middle and fine scales. The obligation to provide sagebrush cover for its various wildlife habitat values will be met in most areas. The overall goal of this alternative is to emphasize plant and animal community health at landscape levels.	40
Southeastern Oregon	General Habitat; Habitat Fragmentation	Manage to maintain or establish connectivity of big sagebrush types between geographic management areas (GMAs) at mid and fine scales. To achieve desired wildlife habitat conditions, management will include a variety of methods to maintain, increase, or decrease the big sagebrush overstory.	51
Southeastern Oregon	Wildlife and wildlife habitats	To the extent possible and practical, wildlife community connectivity and interrelationships will be emphasized in most habitats. Management emphasis will substantially address source habitats and species of focus described in the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Plan (ICEBMP) science.	51
Southeastern Oregon	Appendix F- Wildlife Habitat Descriptions and Considerations	Summary of Appendix F (Introduction): Chapter 3 describes the DRFCs for land, resource, and social and economic conditions that are expected to be present on public land in 50 to 100 years if the plan management objectives are achieved. Because the DRFCs are descriptions associated with long-term BLM management, they provide limited direction for wildlife habitat assessments and prescriptions over the next 20 years. Due to this limitation, Appendix F has been included here to provide more descriptions of habitat characteristics important to wildlife that will be incorporated into activity plans and evaluated in both the short and the long term.	F-1
Southeastern Oregon	ACECs	A significant number of ACECs have sage-grouse specifically, or sagebrush habitat that is fundamental to sage-grouse life cycle needs as Relevant and Important values. Each of these has management actions targeted at conserving/protecting the species and/or its habitat.	68-101
Southeastern Oregon	Habitat Restoration	Guidance contained in 43 CFR 4180 of the regulations directs public land management toward the maintenance or restoration of the physical function and biological health of rangeland ecosystems. Standards of Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (S&G's) for public land administered by the BLM in Oregon and Washington were approved by the Secretary of the Interior on August 12, 1997 (USDI-BLM 1997). This objective will maintain and improve the condition and trend in plant communities that provide wildlife habitat, recreation, forage, scientific, scenic, ecological, and water and soil conservation benefits for consumptive and nonconsumptive uses. The long-term goal of vegetation management across the landscape is to maintain or improve rangeland condition to DRFCs that meet management objectives, not specifically late-potential natural communities (PNCs) ecological status.	38

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Southeastern Oregon	Habitat Restoration	<p>All special status species habitats or populations will be managed so that BLM actions will not contribute to the need to list the species as Federally threatened or endangered. Management will consist of a mix of protection, restoration, and enhancement actions. It will be oriented toward the development of habitats that support healthy, biologically diverse plant communities at landscape levels while meeting the needs of special status species.</p> <p>A variety of projects or other land use adjustments might be required to manage for special status species. Management could require avoidance or mitigation that may have little impact on land uses, while restoration or enhancement could lead to substantial adjustments in customary land use.</p> <p>Management will emphasize achieving conditions that maintain, enhance, or restore habitats and populations regardless of their economic status. All special status species habitats or populations will be substantially managed so that BLM actions do not contribute toward the need to list these species as Federally threatened or endangered. Individual species requirements will be included in management prescriptions but not to an extent that overemphasizes the value of any one habitat.</p> <p>Restoration and management of sagebrush communities that are important for sagebrush obligate wildlife species, including sage-grouse are described in detail in the Southeast Oregon RMP (SEORMP) Appendix F-5.</p>	Appendix F-5
Southeastern Oregon	Habitat Restoration	<p>Wildlife diversity and productivity is profoundly influenced by the relative abundance, structure, and spatial arrangement of sagebrush communities (refer to Chapter 2, Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat, Figure 2-1 Preliminary SEORMP/Final EIS). Management of sagebrush communities that is appropriate to soil, climate, and landform needs to incorporate the following overstory and understory components, which contribute towards healthy wildlife habitats:</p> <p>Shrub overstory: Big sagebrush, low sagebrush, and other shrubby species within the genus <i>Artemisia</i> provide primary sources of wildlife habitat structure, food, and cover.</p> <p>Herbaceous understory: Grasses and forbs provide primary sources of wildlife habitat structure, food and cover.</p> <p>Herbaceous cover also provides indirect food sources for wildlife by supporting the environments that produce insects consumed by birds and other small animals.</p>	Figure 2-1 Preliminary SEORMP/ Final EIS
Southeastern Oregon	Habitat Restoration	<p>Exceeding the fine scale (pasture level) percents (acreages) for shrub cover values shown in Table F-2 may be necessary in order to compensate for currently fragmented habitats and/or where it is likely that fragmentation will continue due to fire history and frequency. Determining activity plan objectives can only be made after considering existing cover conditions at mid scales and larger, and in light of wildlife survey or habitat relationships data. This will be accomplished as a part of the rangeland health assessment process.</p>	F-5
Southeastern Oregon	Habitat Restoration	<p>Avoidance or mitigation of disturbing activities can usually be accomplished by prescribing adjustments to the timing, location, or duration of authorized actions. In some instances, project denial may be the only appropriate course of action where resource values are high and mitigation or avoidance cannot reasonably be made. The appropriate measures necessary for the protection of wildlife need to consider the nature of proposed actions, the species affected, and the time of year the action is expected to occur.</p>	F-2
Southeastern Oregon	Habitat Restoration	<p>Seedings will be implemented with appropriate mixes of adapted perennial species. Species mixes will be determined on a site-specific basis dependent on the probability of successful establishment, risks associated with seeding failure, and other management considerations. Preference will be toward the use of native species, though nonnative species may be used when better adapted to out-compete established annual species. Use of competitive native species or desirable nonnative species will be emphasized in seedings within sites moderately and highly susceptible to degradation. Treatment configuration will emphasize the maintenance of natural values as consistent with other resource management objectives.</p>	40

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Southeastern Oregon	Habitat Restoration	Management will be to maintain or establish diversity, mosaics, and connectivity of sagebrush between geographic areas at middle and fine scales. The obligation to provide sagebrush cover for its various wildlife habitat values will be met in most areas. The overall goal of this alternative is to emphasize plant and animal community health at landscape levels. To achieve DRFCs, management will include a variety of methods to increase or decrease big sagebrush overstory. Quantifications of shrub occurrence are described in Appendix F.	40-41
Southeastern Oregon	Habitat Restoration	Over the life of this plan, vegetation communities will be monitored to determine progress toward attaining DRFCs. Monitoring to determine success in meeting vegetation management objectives will include periodic measurements of plant composition, vigor, and productivity as well as measurement of the amount and distribution of plant cover and litter which protects the soil surface from raindrop impact, detains overland flow, protects the surface from wind erosion, and retards soil moisture loss through evaporation.	40, Monitoring
Southeastern Oregon	Habitat Restoration	Seedings will be implemented with appropriate mixes of adapted perennial species. Species mixes will be determined on a site-specific basis dependent on the probability of successful establishment, risks associated with seeding failure, and other management considerations. Preference will be toward the use of native species, though nonnative species may be used when better adapted to out-compete established annual species. Use of competitive native species or desirable nonnative species will be emphasized in seedings within sites moderately and highly susceptible to degradation. Treatment configuration will emphasize the maintenance of natural values as consistent with other resource management objectives. Note that the SEORMP specifically requires appropriate accordance with Manuals 6340 and 6330 for seedings in WSAs.	40
Southeastern Oregon	Habitat Restoration	Control methods will include preventive management to maintain competitive vegetation cover and reduce the distribution and introduction of noxious weed seed; manual and mechanical methods to physically remove noxious weeds; biological methods to introduce and cultivate factors that naturally limit the spread of noxious weeds; cultural practices; and application of chemicals. Target species will include those identified by county, state, and BLM weed priority lists.	41
Southeastern Oregon	Habitat Restoration	Shrub cover capable of supporting the life history requirements of sage-grouse and other wildlife that use sagebrush habitats (such as Classes 3, 4, and 5 from Table F-1) should be present at multiple scales, over a large area, and in a variety of spatial arrangements (such as at a landscape level and with connectivity present). This should include a central core of sagebrush habitat which is present in large contiguous blocks as well as some other habitat arrangements such as islands, corridors, and mosaic patterns. Each of these patterns has significance to wildlife within geographic areas. Wildlife objectives for sagebrush communities in individual pastures, allotments, and GMAs will be determined on the basis of factors such as: (1) presence of sage-grouse and their seasonal life history needs, (2) existing native shrub cover patterns and characteristics within each GMA, (3) the frequency and reasonably foreseeable likelihood of fire, and (4) locations of seedings and their shrub overstory conditions. Shrub cover should be present that shows some mix of height and age classes but with an overall emphasis on the presence of communities with shrubs in a mature structural status per Thomas et al. (1984).	Appendix F-5 at p F-6
Southeastern Oregon	Habitat Restoration	Restore, protect, and enhance the diversity and distribution of desirable vegetation communities, including perennial native and desirable introduced plant species.	38
Southeastern Oregon	Habitat Restoration	Upland native rangeland communities will be managed to attain a trend toward DRFCs based on management objectives and site potential. Management actions will maintain the condition of those native communities where vegetation composition and structure will be consistent with desired conditions and natural values. Nonnative seedings in poor or fair condition will be managed to restore production and vigor, as well as to improve structural and species diversity consistent with other management objectives. Nonnative seedings in good or excellent condition will be managed to maintain seeding health, improve structural and species diversity, and ensure continued forage production. Upland shrub cover across the landscape will be maintained at moderate to heavy levels of potential for wildlife cover values (see	39

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		Appendix F, Table F-1) and structural diversity in most native vegetation communities where potential exists and in nonnative seedings as consistent with other resource management objectives.	
Southeastern Oregon	Habitat Restoration	<p>Manage to maintain or establish connectivity of big sagebrush types between GMAs at mid and fine scales. To achieve desired wildlife habitat conditions, management will include a variety of methods to maintain, increase, or decrease the big sagebrush overstory. (p.52)</p> <p>The following from Appendix F-6:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Restore rangelands that are depleted in structure and plant composition due to past uses, fires, and weed invasions. Restoration with multiple native species is preferable to using introduced species such as crested wheatgrass. However, if native species cannot be established because (1) native seed sources are not available, or (2) intense competition from other undesirable vegetation is very likely to limit the success in establishing natives, then introduced grasses with a shrub component (crested wheatgrass and shrubs) will be considered preferable to taking no rehabilitation action at all. Fire and weed threats to remaining areas of good quality native range need to be reduced or eliminated where possible. 2. Reduce the level of western juniper encroachment into rangeland sites that threaten sage-grouse as a result of habitat loss and hunting perches for avian predators. Use mechanical means, rather than fire, where the risk of exacerbating fire cycles associated with invasive species (such as cheatgrass) is high. 3. Modify landscape character in monotypic stands of sagebrush where there is reason to believe that such action would enhance wildlife habitat values and not further exacerbate problems associated with fragmentation. 4. Restore habitat complexity, diversity, and structure in at least portions of rangelands currently dominated by monoculture stands of adapted grasses (nonnative). This action is considered appropriate if the area is judged to be of substantial consequence to the connectivity of individual geographic areas and the outcome would benefit critically important wildlife habitats (such as areas of concentrated or otherwise highly significant wildlife use). 5. Delay the timing of certain crested wheatgrass retreatments (treatments for the purpose of encouraging more grass production) where the status of sage grouse winter use and breeding activity is uncertain. Prescribe treatments based on documented field survey data that address sage grouse absence or presence. 	Appendix F-6 at p F-10
Southeastern Oregon	Habitat Restoration	Use cultural practices to establish greenstrips in order to diminish the chances for further loss of quality sagebrush habitats to wildfire. This is especially true for quality sage grouse habitats that adjoin fire prone, cheatgrass-dominated areas.	
Southeastern Oregon	Habitat Restoration	The Preliminary SEORMP/Final EIS is based on adaptive management, which is a continuing process of planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, to adjust management strategies to meet goals and objectives of ecosystem-based management. The concept of adaptive management uses the latest scientific information, site-specific information/data, and professional judgment to select the management strategy most likely to meet goals and objectives. The concept also acknowledges the need to manage resources under varying degrees of uncertainty as well as the need to adjust to new information. Through continually adjusting management strategies as needed, supported by monitoring or additional information, adaptive management will result in attainment of short- and long-term trend toward meeting objectives. Adaptive management provides the capability to respond quickly to monitoring data with consideration given to past season monitoring or pre-season conditions.	111

Plan	GRSG Topic	Description of Management	Page
Southeastern Oregon	Habitat Restoration	Management actions will be implemented to rehabilitate and/or vegetate plant communities that do not meet DRFCs due to dominance by annual, weedy, or woody species. Vegetation manipulation projects will be implemented primarily to direct trend toward desired conditions, improve structural and species diversity, and protect soil, water, and vegetation resources. Emphasis will be placed on the use of prescribed and wildland fire to regulate woody species dominance and direct vegetation composition toward desired conditions.	39
Steens	General Habitat	The BLM program documents and interagency plan/NEPA documents and decisions applicable to the CMPA (and AMU) include the following: Greater Sage-Grouse and Sagebrush-Steppe Ecosystems Management Guidelines (USDI et al. 2000b)	9
Steens	General Habitat	Actions to diversify structure and composition of selected nonnative seedings will be implemented consistent with other resource objectives. In Greater sage-grouse habitat or deer winter range or both, interseeding, preferably using locally obtained seed, to establish native plant species onto approximately 5,000 acres of nonnative seedings throughout the CMPA, will be utilized where vegetative species diversity is low. Low species diversity areas are those that are predominantly crested wheatgrass, or have reverted to cheatgrass dominance, or have few herbaceous plants with an overstory of sagebrush. Other desirable nonnative species may be used in the seeding mix. Livestock grazing may be used to suppress competition and allow sagebrush establishment. In areas to be reseeded, coordination with permittees, the ODFW, and the USFWS will occur to set livestock grazing prescriptions on a site-specific basis. Emphasis of this project includes establishment of seedings on the north and west sides of Steens Mountain. Brushbeating of sagebrush in a mosaic pattern may be allowed on 50 percent of seeded areas where brush cover is high.	30
Steens	General Habitat	In managing uplands, the BLM needs to consider the consequences and relationships of management to life history needs to wildlife. The Executive Order on the Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to protect Migratory Birds, the Greater Sage-Grouse and Sagebrush-Steppe Ecosystem Management Guidelines, the BLM National (or OR/WA State level) Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy, and the Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy for Oregon (when approved) give direction to protect or restore habitat for these species, many of which are Special Status Species.	36
Steens	General Habitat	Areas used by Greater Sage-Grouse and other Special Status Species will be identified in efforts orchestrated with the ODFW or USFWS. Habitat management will be coordinated across agency boundaries.	38
Steens	General Habitat	Big sagebrush habitat will be managed for benefit of Special Status Species and to meet DRC in most big sagebrush habitats throughout the CMPA. Big sagebrush habitat will be managed in accordance with the Migratory Bird Executive Order, Greater Sage-Grouse and Sagebrush-Steppe Ecosystem Management Guidelines, BLM National (or Oregon/Washington state level) Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy and Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy for Oregon when approved.	38
Steens	General Habitat	Unless specifically needed as a vegetation management tool, utilization levels as measured at the end of the growing season will not exceed 60 percent on nonnative seedings and 50 percent on native herbaceous forage plants, on a pasture average basis, except where lower use levels may be necessary to prevent detrimental effects on habitat quality for sage-grouse.	53
Steens	General Habitat	Increase species and structural diversity at the plant community and landscape levels in the big sagebrush communities. Provide multiple successional stages within the landscape.	30
Steens	General Habitat	Manage big sagebrush, quaking aspen, and western juniper plant communities to meet habitat requirements for wildlife.	31
Steens	General Habitat	Manage big sagebrush communities to meet the life history requirements of sagebrush-dependent species.	31
Steens	General Habitat	Big sagebrush, quaking aspen, and western juniper plant communities will be managed for the benefit of all wildlife and to meet the desired range condition (DRC) in most habitats throughout the CMPA.	31

Plan	GRSG Topic	Description of Management	Page
Steens	General Habitat	Throughout the CMPA, approximately 5,000 acres of nonnative seedings and most native vegetation in deer winter range, where vegetative species diversity is low, will be interseeded to establish native plant species. Where appropriate, other desirable nonnative plant species may be used. Livestock grazing may be used to suppress competition and allow sagebrush establishment. In areas to be reseeded, coordination with permittees, the ODFW, and the USFWS will occur to set livestock grazing prescriptions on a site-specific basis.	34
Steens	General Habitat; Habitat Fragmentation	Big sagebrush habitat will be managed for shrub cover, structure, and forage values for the benefit of game and nongame wildlife. The DRC will include shrub cover values that meet or exceed the requirements described in Wildlife Habitats in Managed Rangelands (1984) and include big sagebrush distribution over a large enough area to avoid the adverse impacts of habitat fragmentation. The DRC will strive for big sagebrush overstories that emphasize the presence of mature, light-to-moderately stocked shrub canopies capable of supporting diverse herbaceous understories and are present in a variety of spatial arrangements important to wildlife. This will apply to most native range or seed areas in big sagebrush habitats throughout the CMPA.	31
Three Rivers	Sagebrush Removal	Allow no big sagebrush removal within two miles of sage grouse strutting grounds when determined by a wildlife biologist to be detrimental to sage grouse habitat requirements.	2-75
Upper Deschutes	General Habitat	Vegetation treatments to maintain or restore shrub-steppe communities will be based on a landscape level restoration of broad vegetative types. Priorities for treatment will focus on areas that will show the biggest ecological gain for a given level of treatment intensity or investment. Cost-benefit ratios will help determine project priority and scale. Priorities will include restoration of sage-grouse and other special status species habitat. Areas that have transitioned beyond the threshold of restoration success with reasonable treatment effort and expense will normally receive lower priority.	31
Upper Deschutes	General Habitat	In coordination with other federal and state natural resource management agencies develop a long-term conservation strategy for managing sage-grouse habitats.	46
Upper Deschutes	General Habitat	Maintain existing shrub-steppe habitats in the existing sage grouse range in order to sustain sage-grouse populations and protect options for the future (Information Bulletin No. OR-200-334).	48
Upper Deschutes	General Habitat	Consider partnering with ODFW, OMD, USFWS, and others in developing a multispecies habitat conservation strategy for the Bend/Redmond, Horse Ridge, Mayfield Pond, Millican Plateau, North Millican, and Prineville Reservoir geographic areas. Focal species for this strategy are to include, but not be limited to sage-grouse, deer, elk, pronghorn, and golden eagles.	54
Upper Deschutes	General Habitat	Vegetative habitat needs of sagebrush-steppe obligate species will be emphasized in treatment design.	31
Upper Deschutes	General Habitat; Habitat Fragmentation	Where ecologically appropriate, restore or maintain stands of large contiguous sagebrush communities in patches of 400 acres and larger. Design of landscape patterns will include connectivity of large shrub-steppe patches.	31
Vegetation			
Andrews Management Unit (Andrews)	Conifer Encroachment	Reduce the influence of western juniper trees less than 120 years old to restore riparian and sagebrush habitats. Western juniper trees less than 120 years old may be cut in riparian areas and sagebrush plant communities.	29
Lakeview	Conifer Encroachment	When evaluating areas for western juniper treatment (including areas for commercial and public wood cutting), priority areas will be those areas where the western juniper is most adversely affecting other resources. These include quaking aspen groves, riparian areas, and Greater Sage-Grouse leks.	34

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Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area (Steens)	Conifer Encroachment	Reduce the influence of western juniper trees less than 120 years old to restore riparian and sagebrush habitats.	28
Southeastern Oregon	Forest and Woodlands	Western juniper management will be implemented to maintain commodity production, enhance resource values, and reduce western juniper dominance. Priority areas for western juniper treatments will be riparian/wetlands, quaking aspen stands, productive grasslands, forested areas, and shrublands where loss of vegetation diversity is likely. Treatments will be conducted to provide a mosaic pattern to meet wildlife habitat requirements. A maximum of 124,500 acres of western juniper will be treated during the life of the plan, using prescribed fire and/or mechanical treatment. Acres burned in wildfire situations will be included as part of acres treated (p. 43)	43
Southeastern Oregon	Conifer Encroachment	Habitats that support western juniper should provide the following kinds of characteristics important to wildlife: 3) Limited juniper presence in rangelands where sage-grouse forage and cover values are threatened or where predation by raptors may be affecting limited grouse populations. 6) Vegetation mosaics within project sites so that the result of treatments is approximately 50 percent juniper habitat and 50 percent shrub/grassland habitat. The patch size and layout of cover types resulting from projects (burning or cutting) is dependent upon wildlife that use the area and cover conditions within the geographic area being affected.	Appendix F-7, p. F11
Southeastern Oregon	Rangeland Vegetation	Upland shrub cover across the landscape will be maintained at moderate to heavy levels of potential for wildlife cover values (see Appendix F, Table F-1) and structural diversity in most native vegetation communities where possible and in nonnative seedings as consistent with other resource management objectives. The frequency, distribution, and ecological integrity of native stands of mountain shrubs will be restored and maintained where site potential will support these species. Appropriate Management Responses (AMR) will be implemented on wildland fires to meet vegetation management and other objectives.	39
Livestock Grazing			
Southeastern Oregon	Objectives / Grazing in upland habitats	Grazing Considerations for Upland Habitats: Key grass forage species on native ranges should be grazed at stocking levels that allow for maintenance or improvement of plant vigor and recruitment of young plants. Native range should be grazed in such a way that a patchy appearance comprised of lightly to moderately grazed and ungrazed areas are prevalent throughout most of the pasture. The rangeland may be topped, skimmed, or grazed substantially in patches. In so doing, a combination of seasonally important habitat values important to wildlife will be present, including grazed (conditioned) forage plants and areas with high quality cover and structure (ungrazed or slightly grazed vegetation). Shrub overstories capable of supporting sage-grouse and other species that use sagebrush habitats should be present on at least 50 to 75 percent of the surface acreage of livestock management pastures capable of supporting big sagebrush communities. (p F-6)	Appendix F-3, F-4

Plan	GRSG Topic	Description of Management	Page
Southeastern Oregon	Grazing practices	<p>Unless specified with rationale, the following factors will be considered consistent with the protection of most wildlife habitat values in activity plans.</p> <p>Key area selection for monitoring activity plan performance (effectiveness monitoring) is based on habitat type, land-form, and/or fence locations at reasonable distances from water accessible to livestock or wild horses. One or more key species of wildlife and wildlife seasons of use need to be identified for activity plan evaluation purposes.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Grazing systems should incorporate periodic yearlong rest and/or growing season deferment. 2) Key grass forage species on native ranges should be grazed at stocking levels that allow for maintenance or improvement of plant vigor and recruitment of young plants. 3) Native range should be grazed in such a way that a patchy appearance comprised of lightly to moderately grazed and ungrazed areas are prevalent throughout most of the pasture. The rangeland may be topped, skimmed, or grazed substantially in patches. In so doing, a combination of seasonally important habitat values important to wildlife will be present, including grazed (conditioned) forage plants and areas with high quality cover and structure (ungrazed or slightly grazed vegetation). Livestock grazing described as a thorough search (heavy trampling, limited standing herbaceous cover, and uniformly grazed key forage plants) is limited to areas near watering facilities such as troughs and reservoirs. Heavy utilization patterns do not dominate the appearance of the landscape and vegetation structure at the end of the growing season. Most young plants are undamaged subsequent to grazing use and low-value herbaceous plants are left ungrazed. 4) TNR livestock grazing use in native range should be avoided to protect forage, cover and structure values for wildlife. Where it is permitted for the attainment of other management objectives, TNR grazing use should conform to utilization levels that are less than or equal to 40 percent as defined in this document and BLM technical references. 5) Native upland range that is not grazed by domestic livestock is a desired wildlife habitat condition. It is generally in limited supply and typically provides very high quality structure and native forage for wildlife use. Maintenance of currently ungrazed native range conditions by avoiding new water developments, salting, and fencing is considered a beneficial mitigating measure for the protection of wildlife habitat values. 	Appendix F-3
Southeastern Oregon	Grazing practices	Livestock grazing will be managed during and following drought to maintain soil and vegetation health and productivity.	58
Southeastern Oregon	Grazing practices	Objective 2: Restore, maintain, or improve riparian vegetation, habitat diversity, and associated watershed function to achieve healthy and productive riparian areas and wetlands.	48
Three Rivers	Grazing Restrictions	Implement grazing systems on all sage-grouse ranges to improve forb production and availability.	2-63
Human Disturbance: general			
Upper Deschutes	General Habitat; Human Disturbance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Design and implement management activities to be consistent with adopted sage-grouse conservation strategies and current, accepted science. b. Vegetation-altering activities may occur in sage-grouse habitat where it does not result in the long-term loss of habitats or contribute to the need to list. c. Disturbance activities may occur in sage-grouse habitat if they do not disrupt breeding and over-wintering activities or compromise habitat suitability. 	46
Brothers-Lapine	Human Disturbance	Sage-Grouse Spring-Summer-Fall Range: Projects will be limited to no more than 60 percent of the area in any 10-year period with emphasis on mosaic patterns, creation of edge, and retention of important cover.	89
Brothers-Lapine	Human Disturbance	Sage-Grouse Wintering Areas: These areas can only be considered for treatment after adequate consideration and planning have been given to the present and future wintering sage-grouse populations found in each specific area.	89

Plan	GRSG Topic	Description of Management	Page
Brothers-Lapine	Human Disturbance	Seasonal restrictions will be applied to mitigate the impacts of human activities on important seasonal wildlife habitat. Examples of the major types of important seasonal wildlife habitat are crucial deer winter range, sage-grouse nesting habitat, and raptor nesting habitat.	97
Lakeview	Human Disturbance; Habitat Fragmentation	The high concentration of Greater Sage-Grouse leks in the High Lakes ACEC will be managed to maintain the continuity of Greater Sage-Grouse habitat and to avoid disturbance during the breeding season.	67
Human Disturbance: Recreation			
Upper Deschutes	OHV Restrictions	New trails and developments will be designed and constructed to avoid or minimize conflicts with known raptor and sage-grouse areas. Existing trails and developments will be managed to avoid or minimize conflicts with those areas which may be known or are identified in the future. Management in these areas may include trail closure, trail relocation, or season of use restrictions.	107
Human Disturbance: Lands and Realty			
Upper Deschutes	Land and Realty	Prioritize parcels for acquisition to meet management objectives based on the potential for imminent development. These objectives could include the following considerations (note: these are not in order of priority): Parcels that contain important habitat for special status species and other species of high public interest or concern, including sage-grouse.	145
Lakeview	Human Disturbance: Lands and Realty	New rights-of-way (ROWs) will be avoided in Greater Sage-Grouse breeding habitat. Most of north Lake County will be designated as limited to existing roads and trails year-round to protect wildlife habitat.	50
Lakeview	Land and Realty	All ACECs, Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSRs), the Buck Creek Watchable Wildlife Site, and Greater Sage-Grouse breeding habitat will be designated ROW avoidance areas except for ROW that will not conflict with management objectives for the area (see Map L-8).	94
Andrews/ Steens	Human Disturbance: Lands and Realty	Wind energy development will be restricted from ROW, realty use, and renewable energy avoidance and exclusion zones as identified in the RMP and the portion of the Steen Mountain CMPA in the planning area.	Plan Maintenance Sheet AMU-3
Three Rivers	Human Disturbance: Lands and Realty	It will be clarified that wind energy development is allowed on a case-by-case basis in areas outside rights-of-way and land use authorization avoidance and exclusion zones. Wind energy development will be restricted from rights-of-way and land use authorization avoidance and exclusion zones identified in the RMP and the portion of the Steens Mountain CMPA in the planning area.	Plan Maintenance Sheet TR-1
Lakeview	Human Disturbance: Lands and Realty	New rights-of-way will be avoided in GRSG breeding habitat (Map L-8). Most of north Lake County will be designated as limited to existing roads and trails year-round to protect wildlife habitat.	Unknown
Human Disturbance: Minerals, Oil and Gas			
AMU	Minerals, Oil and Gas	Areas that will be recommended for withdrawal under 43 CFR 2300 from locatable mineral exploration and development include existing BLM recreation and administrative sites, potential BLM recreation sites when development is approved, National Register-listed cultural sites, significant paleontological localities, areas containing federally listed species and designated critical habitat, and land within 0.6 mile of sage-grouse leks. Approximately 447,464 acres are open to locatable mineral exploration and development under a notice or plan of operation, and 20,367 acres are closed.	48
AMU	Minerals, Oil and Gas	Areas of seasonal or special stipulations include big game winter range, areas containing federally listed species and their designated critical habitat, and land within 0.6 mile of sage-grouse leks.	48

Appendix B. Greater Sage-Grouse Management in Existing Resource Management Plans

Plan	GRSG Topic	Description of Management	Page
AMU	Minerals, Oil and Gas	Salable minerals development is permitted throughout the AMU on a case-by-case basis except on land closed by Congressional action and the Wilderness Study Area (WSA) IMP, in Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), existing BLM administrative and recreation sites, potential BLM recreation sites, National Register-listed cultural sites, significant paleontological localities, areas containing federally listed species and their designated critical habitat, and within 0.6 mile of sage-grouse leks.	49
Brothers-Lapine	Human Disturbance; Minerals, Oil and Gas	The no surface occupancy stipulation on 16,480 acres around Prineville Reservoir and seasonal restrictions on 44,580 acres of deer wintering areas and 3,560 acres of sage-grouse strutting grounds would continue.	13
Brothers-Lapine	Human Disturbance; Minerals, Oil and Gas	Sage-Grouse Habitat (2-Mile Radius of Strutting Grounds): Projects within the two-mile radius of strutting grounds will be planned for selective control in a manner that will not adversely impact present and future nesting sage grouse populations. Within the one-mile radius zone shrub reduction projects will be highly selective.	89
Lakeview	Human Disturbance; Locatable Minerals	About 1,647,544 acres will be open to locatable mineral development, but subject to a combination of protective stipulations, including: preparing a plan of operations, seasonal restrictions, and special visual design measures; primarily in areas of big game winter range, Greater Sage-Grouse breeding habitat, one suitable wild and scenic river, and Visual Resource Management Classes I and II (see Map M-10).	90
Lakeview	Human Disturbance; Mineral leasing	About 817,789 acres will be open to mineral leasing but subject to no-surface-occupancy restrictions, primarily in some ACECs and all Greater Sage-Grouse breeding habitat (see Map M-9).	91
Lakeview	Human Disturbance; Salable Minerals	About 676,150 acres of confirmed Greater Sage-Grouse breeding habitat will be included in the surface occupancy avoidance category (see Map M-8).	91-92
Lakeview	Human Disturbance; Mineral Leasing	Surface occupancy and use related to mineral leasing shall be prohibited within 0.6 mile of known or occupied breeding habitat.	A-175
Lakeview	Human Disturbance; Locatable Minerals	Special status species (Federal candidate/BLM sensitive) of plants and animals, and their habitat, will be identified by the resource area manager, and shall be avoided whenever possible.	A-178 to A-179
Lakeview	Minerals, Oil and Gas	About 676,150 acres of confirmed Greater Sage-Grouse breeding habitat will be included in the surface occupancy avoidance category.	91
Southeastern Oregon	Minerals, Oil and Gas	Timing limitations will be applied to land where the resource values (such as raptor nesting, sage-grouse leks, or big game winter range) cannot be adequately protected by the standard lease terms, but yet do not require a yearlong restriction on leasing operations. Less restrictive stipulations (such as controlled surface use or standard stipulations) were considered in developing this stipulation, but it was concluded that they would not afford sufficient protection to the known and suspected resources found on the parcels.	30
Southeastern Oregon	Minerals, Oil and Gas	There will also be areas where a seasonal or other special stipulation will be applied to protect values identified. These areas include some ACECs; a 0.5-mile buffer around sage-grouse leks; big game winter ranges; areas of special status plant and animal species and their essential habitat; and RCAs.	30

Plan	GRSG Topic	Description of Management	Page
Southeastern Oregon	Minerals, Oil and Gas	Sage-grouse breeding activity could be disrupted by lease activity during the strutting season. A No Surface Occupancy stipulation will be applied within 0.5 mile of these sites between March 1 and June 1 of each year. The authorized officer may grant an exception to the stipulation if site-specific environmental analysis indicates that an action would not interfere with sage-grouse strutting. The authorized officer may modify the size and timeframes of the stipulation if monitoring indicates that current sage-grouse use patterns are inconsistent with dates established for animal occupation, or if the proposed action could be conditioned so as to not interfere with sage grouse strutting. This stipulation may be waived by the authorized officer if monitoring determines that all or specific portions of the lease area no longer satisfy this functional capacity.	34
Steens	Minerals, Oil and Gas	Saleable minerals development is permitted in the CMPA, for road maintenance only, at locations identified in the Steens Act. Those sites are outside Wilderness, WSAs, designated segments of the National WSR System, ACECs, existing BLM administrative and recreation sites, and potential BLM recreation sites. Development is not permitted in those parts of the sites that are within National Register-listed cultural sites, significant paleontological localities, areas containing Federally listed species and their designated critical habitat, and within 0.6 mile of sage-grouse leks.	49
Monitoring			
Baker	General Habitat; Monitoring	Continue inventories, develop and implement habitat management plans to protect or enhance important wildlife habitat for big game animals, native fisheries, bald eagles and other raptors, and native game birds including sage-grouse and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse.	ii
Baker	Monitoring	Continue inventories initiated on sage-grouse to determine nesting, brood rearing, and wintering habitat areas.	19
Lakeview	Monitoring	In conjunction with other private, state, or federal agencies, continue to monitor known populations of special status species considered to be sagebrush obligates (such as Greater Sage-Grouse, pygmy rabbit, and kit fox).	52
Lakeview	Monitoring	Annually or semiannually assess landscape changes in big sagebrush habitats from wildfire, prescribed fire, vegetation treatments, insect infestations, or other major influences. These changes will be mapped using global positioning system, geographic information system, and remote sensing technologies. The number of acres will be reported for each type of action. Assessments will be based on changes in size and composition of big sagebrush habitats. Changes will reflect suitability for sagebrush-dependent species. Big sagebrush and other wildlife habitats will be evaluated periodically during Rangeland Health Assessments and after major catastrophic events such as large-scale wildfire. Annually or biannually monitor areas where habitat treatments occur. Use photo points and vegetation sampling techniques that include species and structural composition of the area before and after treatment, if possible.	51
Southeastern Oregon	Monitoring / Adaptive Management	The concept of adaptive management uses the latest scientific information, site-specific information/data, and professional judgment to select the management strategy most likely to meet goals and objectives. The concept also acknowledges the need to manage resources under varying degrees of uncertainty as well as the need to adjust to new information. Through continually adjusting management strategies as needed, supported by monitoring or additional information, adaptive management will result in attainment of short- and long-term trend toward meeting objectives. Adaptive management provides the capability to respond quickly to monitoring data with consideration given to past season monitoring or preseason conditions.	111
Southeastern Oregon	Monitoring	Over the life of this plan, vegetation communities will be monitored to determine progress toward attaining DRFCs. Monitoring to determine success in meeting vegetation management objectives will include periodic measurements of plant composition, vigor, and productivity as well as measurement of the amount and distribution of plant cover and litter that protects the soil surface from raindrop impact, detains overland flow, protects the surface from wind erosion, and retards soil moisture loss through evaporation.	40

Plan	GRSG Topic	Description of Management	Page
Three Rivers	Monitoring; General Habitat	1. Inventory all sage-grouse habitat for strutting grounds. 2. Ensure that sufficient sagebrush is retained on a case-by case basis via the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.	2-75
Upper Deschutes	Monitoring	Map the locations of active and historic important wildlife habitats (i.e., raptor nests, deer, elk and pronghorn winter range, sage grouse leks, etc.). Periodically monitor these habitats and survey potential habitats for additional activity. Map the land use activities that may cause negative impacts on these habitats.	51
Upper Deschutes	Monitoring	In conjunction with other private, state, or federal agencies, continue to monitor wildlife populations associated with source habitats in the planning area. Do this at several scales: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For individual species such as bald and golden eagles, sage-grouse, deer, elk, and pronghorn. • Groups of species associated with source habitats such as shrub-steppe, juniper, and ponderosa pine. 	166
Special Designations – Areas of Critical Environmental Concern			
Southeastern Oregon	ACEC – surface disturbance	Most ACECs are identified as ROW Avoidance Areas, while the balance are Exclusion Areas. Additionally, most are proposed for withdrawal for Locatables and Closed or Withdrawn from Salables and Leasable minerals.	Table 13, p. 69
Multiple RMPs			
	Livestock Grazing	Implement the <i>GRSG Programmatic Candidate Conservation Agreement for Livestock Grazing Practices on BLM Lands in Oregon</i> . Where there is also a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for private lands, BLM will coordinate with the private land owner who has a BLM grazing allotment permit.	Unknown
	Energy development	Record of Decision: Implementation of a Wind Energy Development Program and Associated Land Use Plan Amendments, dated 12/15/2005. The Land Use Plans that were updated included Andrews/Steens, Brothers/LaPine, SE Oregon, Three Rivers, Two Rivers, and Upper Deschutes RMPs.	Unknown
	Energy development	The Brothers/LaPine SE Oregon, Two Rivers, and Upper Deschutes RMPs state, “Programmatic policies and BMPs in the Wind Energy Development Program will be adopted.”	Unknown

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