

Draft

**Greater Sage-Grouse  
Resource Management Plan  
Amendment and  
Environmental Impact  
Statement**

**Great Basin Region  
Oregon Sub-Region**

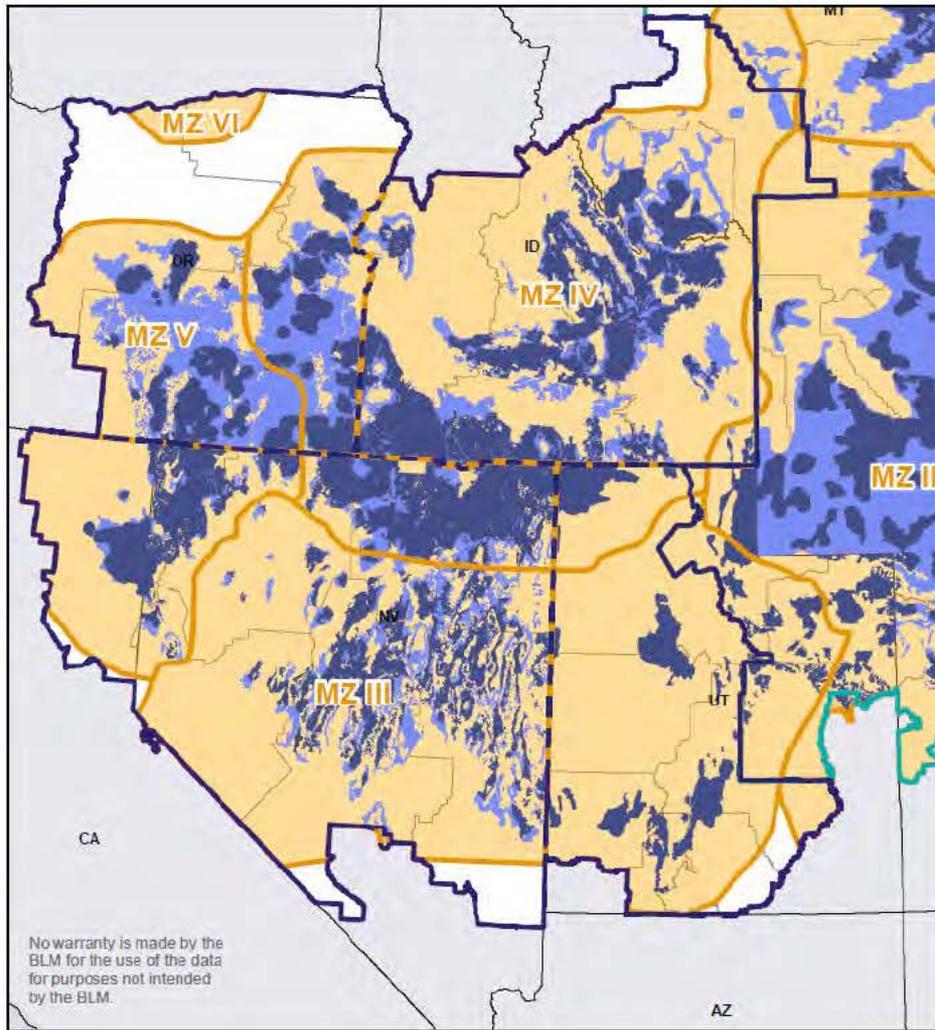




Greater Sage-Grouse (GRSG) Draft Land Use Plan Amendments and EIS

# **GREAT BASIN REGION – GREATER SAGE-GROUSE HABITAT OVERVIEW**

# Great Basin GRSG Habitat Overview



No warranty is made by the BLM for the use of the data for purposes not intended by the BLM.



-  Great Basin
-  Rocky Mountain
-  Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' (WAFWA) Management Zone
-  Preliminary priority habitat
-  Preliminary general habitat



# Great Basin GRSG

## Habitat Overview

- **Total Great Basin Habitat Area:** 61 million acres
- **Sub-regions:**
  - Idaho and southwestern Montana
  - Nevada and northeastern California
  - Oregon
  - Utah
- **Land management:**
  - Bureau of Land Management (BLM): 50% of habitat
  - Forest Service: 7% of habitat
- **Land Use Plan (LUP) Revisions:**
  - 41 BLM Resource Management Plans (RMPs)
  - 12 Forest Service Forest Plans



# Purpose and Need

## of all Great Basin Greater Sage-Grouse Environmental Impact Statements (EISs)

### Purpose

Identify and incorporate appropriate conservation measures in LUPs to conserve, enhance, and restore Greater Sage-Grouse (GRSG) habitat by reducing, eliminating, or minimizing threats to that habitat.

### Need

Respond to the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) March 2010 "warranted, but precluded" Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing petition decision, which identified inadequacy of regulatory mechanisms as a significant threat to GRSG.

The principal regulatory mechanism for BLM and Forest Service is conservation measures in BLM and Forest Service LUPs.





Greater Sage-Grouse  
Draft Resource Management Plan Amendment and EIS

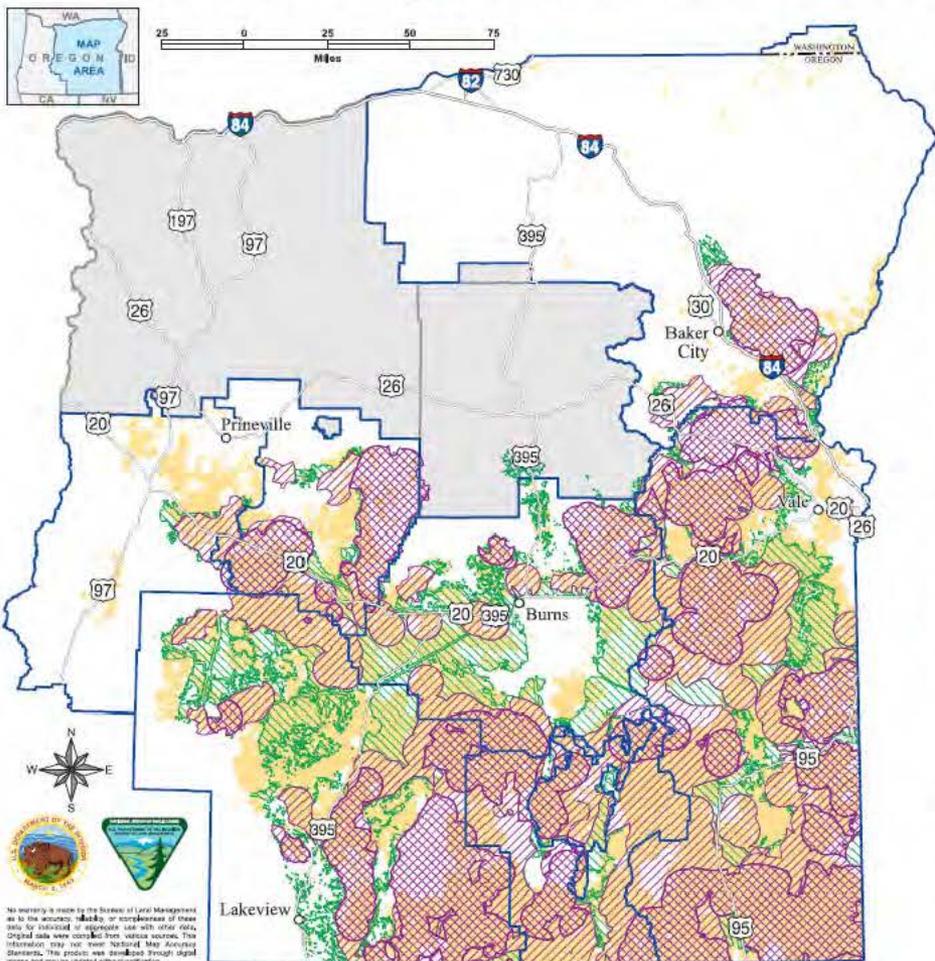
# OREGON SUB-REGION

# Sub-Regional BLM Overview

- **8 Resource Management Plans (RMPs):**
  - Andrews (2005), Baker (1989), Brothers LaPine (1989), Lakeview (2003), Southeastern Oregon (2002), Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area (2005), Three Rivers (1992), and Upper Deschutes (2005)
  - Total Lands: 31.7 million acres = planning area
  - BLM-Administered Lands: 15.2 million acres = decision area



# Sub-Regional GRSG Habitat Overview



Surface Land Management of GRSG Habitat (In Millions of Acres)			
Habitat	BLM	Non-BLM	Total
PPH <sup>1</sup>	4.5	2.0	6.5
PGH <sup>2</sup>	5.6	2.5	8.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>14.6</b>

<sup>1</sup>PPH: Preliminary Priority Habitat  
<sup>2</sup>PGH: Preliminary General Habitat

**Legend**

- BLM Office
- GRSG RMP Boundary
- Non-GRSG RMP Area
- BLM Administered Land
- Preliminary Priority Habitat (PPH) Core Habitat
- Preliminary General Habitat (PGH) Low Density
- Currently Occupied Habitat



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were collected from various sources. The information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

# Identified Threats to GRSG Habitat

Threat	Effect on GRSG Habitat in the OR Sub-Region
<b>Fire</b>	Eliminates sagebrush and allows for the spread of invasive species, creating GRSG habitat loss/degradation.
<b>Invasive Species</b>	Converts sagebrush to non-habitat (e.g., to cheatgrass), creating GRSG habitat loss/degradation.
<b>Conifer Invasion</b>	Spreads juniper, creating diminished GRSG habitat.
<b>Livestock Grazing</b>	Alters sagebrush ecosystem composition, creating inadequate conditions for GRSG habitat.
<b>Mining</b>	Eliminates sagebrush and introduces disturbances, creating GRSG habitat loss/fragmentation and GRSG habit changes.
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Converts sagebrush to non-habitat (e.g., roads and powerlines) and introduces disturbances, creating GRSG habitat loss/fragmentation and GRSG habit changes.
<b>Sagebrush Elimination</b>	Removes or treatments sagebrush (using prescribed fire, or any mechanical and chemical tools to remove or alter the sagebrush ecosystem), creating GRSG habitat loss/fragmentation.
<b>Agriculture Conversion</b>	Converts sagebrush to agriculture lands, creating habitat loss/fragmentation.
<b>Recreation/Urbanization</b>	Converts sagebrush to non-habitat (e.g., trails, facilities, and homes) and introduces disturbances, creating GRSG habitat loss/fragmentation and GRSG habit changes.



# DEIS Proposed Alternatives

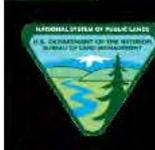
Alternative*	Description
<b>Alternative A</b>	No Action
<b>Alternative B</b>	Based on conservation measures in the National Technical Team (NTT) Report
<b>Alternative C</b>	Based on recommendations from individuals and conservation groups
<b>Alternative D</b>	BLM sub-regional alternative; DEIS preferred alternative
<b>Alternative E</b>	Based on <i>Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy for Oregon: A Plan to Maintain and Enhance Populations and Habitat</i> (State Plan describing ODFW's proposed management of GRSG)
<b>Alternative F</b>	Based on recommendations from individuals and conservation groups

\*Alternative A identifies PPH and PGH, but does not apply new management to those areas. Alternatives B - F propose new management to protect GRSG habitat. Depending on the alternative, proposed management actions apply to Preliminary Priority Management Areas (PPMAs), Preliminary General Management Areas (PGMAs), Core Habitat Areas, or Low Density Areas.



# DEIS Alternatives Comparison

BLM Program	Alternative					
	A	B	C	D	E	F
<b>Habitat (acres)</b>						
PPMA	0	4,547,043	Same as Alt. B	Same as Alt. B	0	Same as Alt. B
PGMA	0	5,662,632	Same as Alt. B	Same as Alt. B	0	Same as Alt. B
Core	0	0	Same as Alt. B	Same as Alt. B	4,547,043	Same as Alt. B
Low Density	0	0	Same as Alt. B	Same as Alt. B	3,923,539	Same as Alt. B
<b>Right-of-Way*</b>						
PPMA	Varies	Exclusion	Exclusion	Avoidance with 3% and mitigation	Exclusion unless non-habitat	Exclusion
PGMA <i>*Includes Wind Energy</i>	Varies	Avoidance	Exclusion	Same as Alt. A with mitigation	Same as Alt. A with mitigation	Exclusion
<b>Travel</b>						
PPMA	Varies	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited with seasonal 2-mile buffers	Limited with step-down 4-mile buffers
PGMA	Varies	Same as Alt. A	Limited	Same as Alt. A	Same as Alt. A	Same as Alt. A
	<i>Note: mostly open or limited</i>					



# DEIS Alternatives Comparison

BLM Program	Alternative					
	A	B	C	D	E	F
<b>Fluid Minerals</b>						
PPMA	Varies	Closed	Closed	NSO	Closed unless non-habitat	Closed
PGMA	Varies	Same as Alt. A	Closed	NSO; CSU; TL	Same as Alt. A with mitigation	Closed
<b>Locatable</b>						
PPMA	Open	Withdrawal	Withdrawal	Open	Withdrawal unless non-habitat	Withdrawal
PGMA	Open	Open	Withdrawal	Open	Same as Alt. A with mitigation	Withdrawal
<b>Land Tenure</b>						
PPMA	Varies	Zone I	Zone I	Zone I	Zone I	Zone I
PGMA	Varies	Same as Alt. A	Zone I	Same as Alt. A	Zone I	Same as Alt. A
<b>Livestock Use</b>						
PPMA	Varies	Same as Alt. A	Closed	Standards added	Same as Alt. A	25% reduction
PGMA	Varies	Same as Alt. A	Closed	Standards added 118,000 acres closed (existing RNAs)	Same as Alt. A	25% reduction



# DEIS Alternatives Comparison

BLM Program	Alternative					
	A	B	C	D	E	F
<b>ACEC (acres)</b>						
PPMA	200,399	Same as Alt. A	1 new ACEC in PPMA	Same as Alt. A with GRSG consideration	Same as Alt. A	17 new ACECs in PPMA/PGMA (3.9 million)
PGMA	251,233	Same as Alt. A	(4.57 million)		Same as Alt. A	
<b>Wild Horse and Burro</b>						
PPMA	Existing AML	Same as Alt. A	Same as Alt. A	Same as Alt. A	Same as Alt. A	25% reduction In AML
PGMA	Existing AML	Same as Alt. A	Same as Alt. A	Same as Alt. A	Same as Alt. A	25% reduction In AML



# Habitat Disturbance Cap by DEIS Alternative

Alternatives	Threshold Within PPMA/PGMA/Core Area
<b>Alternative A (Current Management-No Action)</b>	No threshold identified
<b>Alternative B (NTT Report)</b>	3% in PPMA
<b>Alternative C (Citizen Proposed)</b>	0% in PPMA and PGMA unless valid existing rights
<b>Alternative D (BLM Oregon Developed Alternative)</b>	3% in PPMA, mitigation mandatory
<b>Alternative E (based on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Greater Sage-grouse Conservation and Assessment Strategy (2011) (ODFW Strategy) )</b>	0% in Core unless non-habitat
<b>Alternative F (Citizen Proposed; includes fire as a disturbance)</b>	3% in PPMA

# Mitigation

## Alternatives B, C, D, and F

- Incorporate Regional Mitigation Strategy (2013)

## Alternative D

- Incorporates Regional Mitigation Strategy
- Proposes a “no net loss, net benefit” mitigation goal for PPMA
- Proposes a “no net loss” mitigation goal for PGMA
- Requires collaboration with USFWS and ODFW in selection of mitigation
- Creates Focal Areas (5.2 million acres: 3.8 million PPMA, 1.4 million PGMA)

## Alternative E

- Incorporates ODFW Mitigation Framework
- Proposes a “no net loss, net benefit” standard for Core Area
- Proposes a “no net loss” mitigation goal for Low Density and GRSG habitat outside of Core Area

# Selecting a Preferred Alternative

- The agencies selected a preferred alternative based on:
  - meeting the purpose and need
  - the agencies' multiple use and sustained yield missions
  - interdisciplinary team recommendations
  - environmental consequences analysis of the alternative
  - comments on the Administrative Draft EIS
- The BLM will select the final proposed alternative as part of the Final EIS, which may include elements of more than one alternative.



# Preferred Alternative: Alternative D

- Emphasizes balancing resources and resource use among competing human interests, land uses, and the conservation of natural and cultural resource values, while sustaining and enhancing ecological integrity across the landscape
- Designates and applies management to PPMAs and PGMAs
- Seeks to provide a balanced level of protection, restoration, enhancement, and use of resources and services to meet ongoing programs and land uses



# Preferred Alternative: Alternative D

## GRSG Habitat Protection Measures:

- Maintain or enhance sagebrush and perennial grass ecosystems
- Increase fire suppression and restoration
- Adjust livestock grazing standards to achieve GRSG habitat objectives
- Decrease surface disturbance from new rights-of-way and cross-country OHV use
- Eliminate future surface disturbance from mineral development
- Emphasis on focal areas that represent the best options for restoration activities related to projects or potential locations for off-site mitigation



# Summary of Effects

from GRSG habitat protection measures by action alternative

## Effects Comparison by Program Area

BLM Program	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D (Preferred)	Alternative E	Alternative F
<b>Vegetation</b>	Enhanced conditions	Potential impacts from fire	Enhanced conditions	Enhanced conditions	Enhanced conditions
<b>Fire</b>	Reduced threat	Increased threat	Reduced threat	Reduced threat	Reduced threat
<b>Grazing</b>	Maintained opportunities	Eliminated opportunities	Minimal reduction in opportunities	Maintained opportunities	Decreased opportunities
<b>Lands and Realty</b>	Decreased development opportunities	No new development opportunities	Decreased development opportunities	Decreased development opportunities	Little to no development opportunities
<b>Locatable Minerals</b>	Decreased new development opportunities	Decreased new opportunities	Maintained development opportunities	Maintained development opportunities	Decreased new opportunities
<b>Fluid Minerals</b>	Decreased new development opportunities	No new opportunities	Decreased new development opportunities	Decreased new development opportunities	No new opportunities
<b>Travel Management</b>	Decreased travel opportunities	Decreased travel opportunities	Decreased travel opportunities	Decreased travel opportunities	Decreased travel opportunities



# View the DEIS

*Online:*

<http://www.blm.gov/or/energy/opportunity/sagebrush.php>

*In Person:*

BLM Oregon State Office  
1220 SW 3rd Avenue  
Portland, OR 97204



# Submitting Comments

*E-mail comments to:*

[blm\\_or\\_so\\_gsg\\_planning\\_comments@blm.gov](mailto:blm_or_so_gsg_planning_comments@blm.gov)

*Attend a public comment meeting (January 6, 7, 8, 9, & 13):*

Fill out and submit comment card at meeting

*Mail comments on paper to:*

BLM - Greater Sage-Grouse DEIS

1220 SW 3rd Ave

Portland, OR 97204

**Deadline to submit comments on the  
DEIS: February 20, 2014**



# Timeline of Critical Steps

Action	When
Draft EIS Released	11/22/2013
Host public meetings from 5:30pm – 7:30pm	1/6/2014: Prineville, OR 1/7/2014: Burns, OR 1/8/2014: Ontario, OR 1/9/2014: Baker City, OR 1/13/2014: Lakeview, OR
90-day Public Comment Period Ends	2/20/2014
Final RMPA/EIS Released	June 2014*
Record of Decision Signed	September 2014*

\* Dates are subject to change.

