

Idaho-Southwestern Montana Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regional Land Use Plan Amendment & Draft Environmental Impact Statement

BLM - Forest Service
Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy





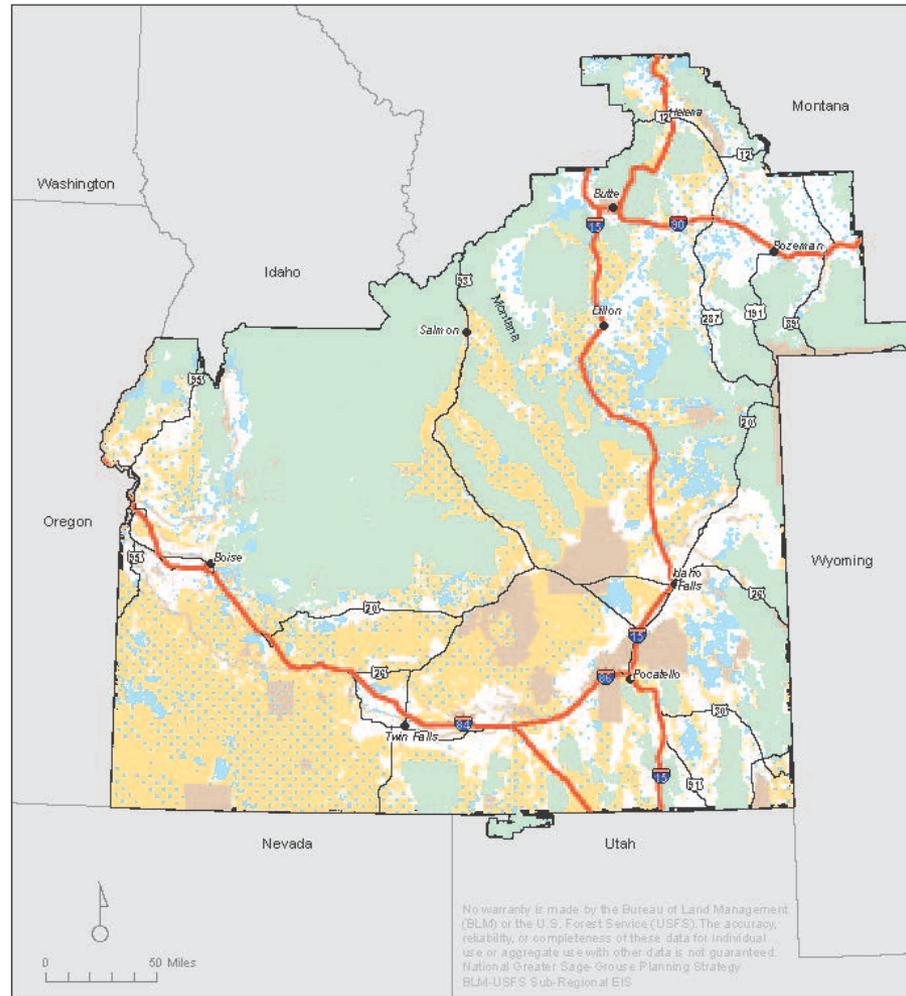
Idaho and Southwestern Montana Sub-Region

29 Plans Addressed:

Idaho – 20 BLM Resource
Management Plans
- 7 Forest Service
Forest Plans

Montana – 1 BLM Resource
Management Plan
- 1 Forest Service
Forest Plan

Planning Area

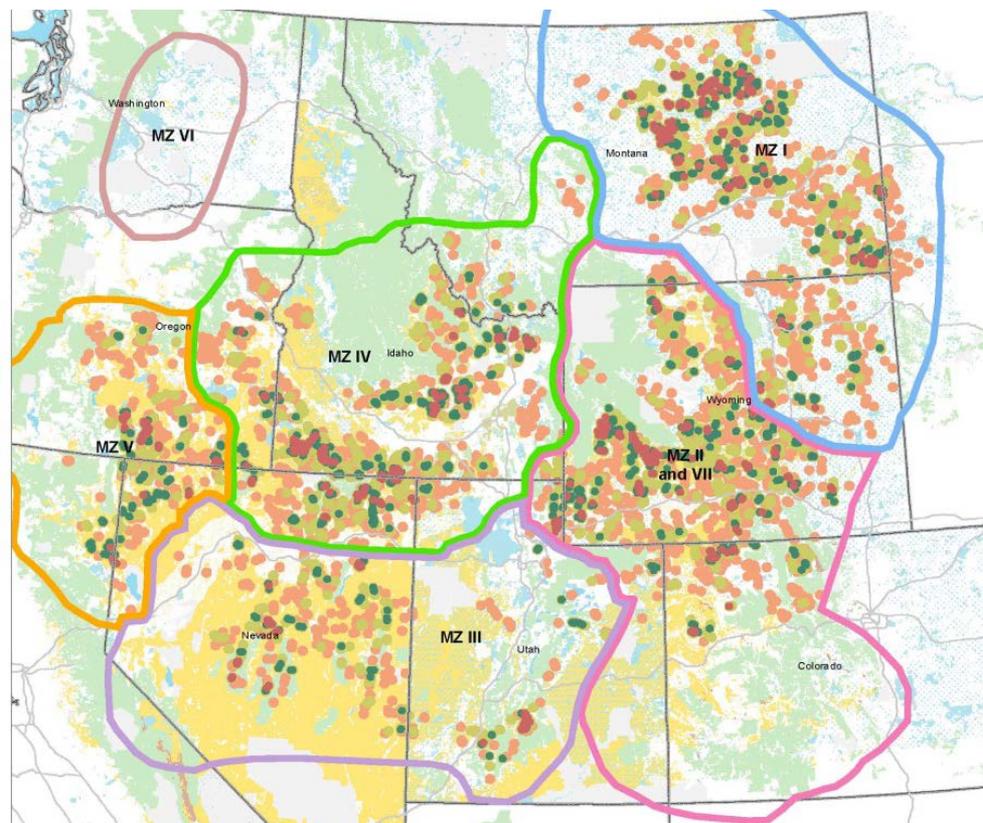


- Analysis Boundary
- Interstate highway
- US highway
- Major Cities

- Bureau of Land Management
- United States Forest Service
- Private
- State
- Other



Planning Area Relationship to Range-Wide Habitat



- GRSB habitat in the planning area: 18.5 million acres
- BLM and Forest Service GRSB habitat in the planning area: 11.2 million acres





Cooperating Agencies

❖ Federal

❖ Forest Service

- ❖ Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest
- ❖ Boise National Forest
- ❖ Caribou-Targhee National Forest
- ❖ Salmon-Challis National Forest
- ❖ Sawtooth National Forest

❖ US Fish and Wildlife Service

❖ Natural Resources Conservation Service

❖ National Park Service – Craters of the Moon National Preserve

❖ US Department of Energy – Idaho National Laboratory

❖ Department of Defense

❖ State

- ❖ Idaho Governor's Office Species of Conservation
- ❖ Idaho Department of Fish and Game
- ❖ Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

❖ Counties

- ❖ Idaho Association of Counties
- ❖ Bingham
- ❖ Blaine
- ❖ Cassia
- ❖ Clark
- ❖ Custer
- ❖ Fremont
- ❖ Jefferson
- ❖ Lemhi
- ❖ Owyhee
- ❖ Power
- ❖ Twin Falls
- ❖ Beaverhead (Montana)
- ❖ Madison (Montana)





Tribal Consultation and Coordination

**Tribes Interested in the Idaho and Southwestern Montana Sub Region
Include:**

Coeur d'Alene

Kootenai

Nez Perce

Shoshone-Bannock

Shoshone-Paiute

Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation

All received Cooperating Agency invitations in December of 2011

All declined Cooperating Agency status

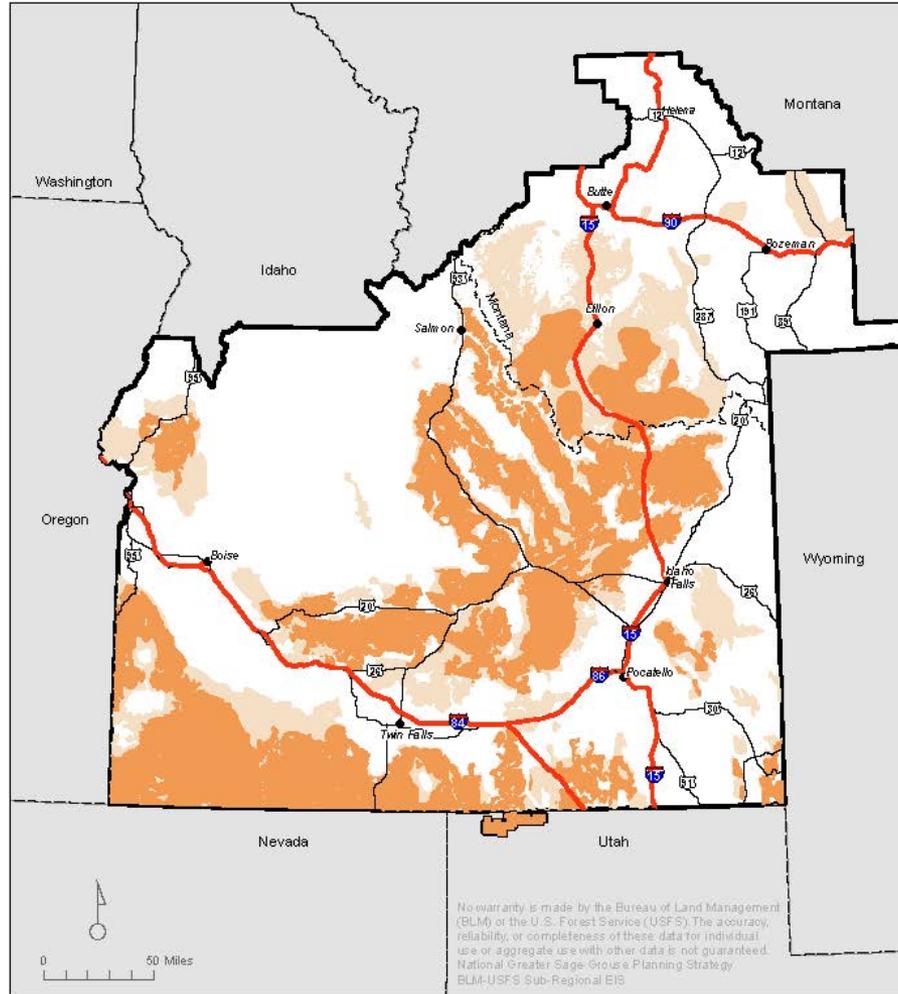
**Consultation and Coordination is continuing and ongoing with all Tribes
through the government-to-government process**





Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat (PPH and PGH)

	BLM (million)	FS (million)	Total (million)
Planning Area	12.7	13.9	49.1
PPH	7.3	1.0	8.3
% WAFWA MZ IV	47.5%	6.5%	54%
% Range-wide	11.4%	1.6%	13%
PGH	2.0	0.9	2.9
% WAFWA MZ IV	39.3%	17.7%	57%
% Range-wide	3.8%	1.7%	5.5%
Leks/Population			
% WAFWA MZ IV			61%
% Range-wide			18%



- Preliminary Priority Habitat
- Preliminary General Habitat
- Analysis Boundary



Alternative Themes

Alternative	Theme
Alternative A	Current Management from 21 BLM and 8 FS LUPs
Alternative B	Based on NTT Report (per IM-2012-044)
Alternative C	Citizen Proposed Conservation Alternative (based on NTT Report plus additional items from scoping). Focused on livestock grazing removal and passive restoration.
Alternative D Co-Preferred	Sub-Regional ID Team Developed Alternative
Alternative E Co-Preferred	Based primarily on State of Idaho submitted Alternative, with Utah areas consistent with State of Utah Conservation Plan
Alternative F	Citizen Proposed Conservation Alternative (based on NTT Report plus additional items from scoping). Focused on reductions in anthropogenic disturbances.

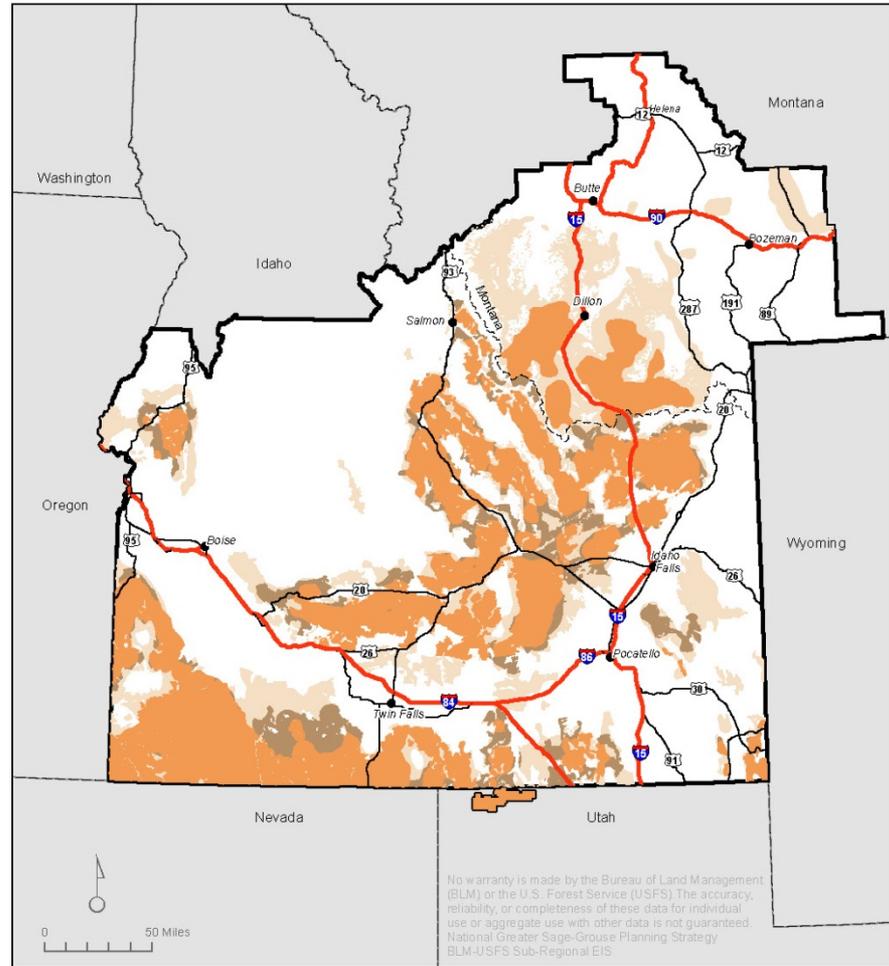




Sub-Regional Alternative

Greater Sage-Grouse Management Areas

- Preliminary Priority
- Preliminary Medial
- Preliminary General



- Preliminary Priority Mgt Area
- Preliminary Medial Mgt Area
- Preliminary General Mgt Area
- Analysis Boundary

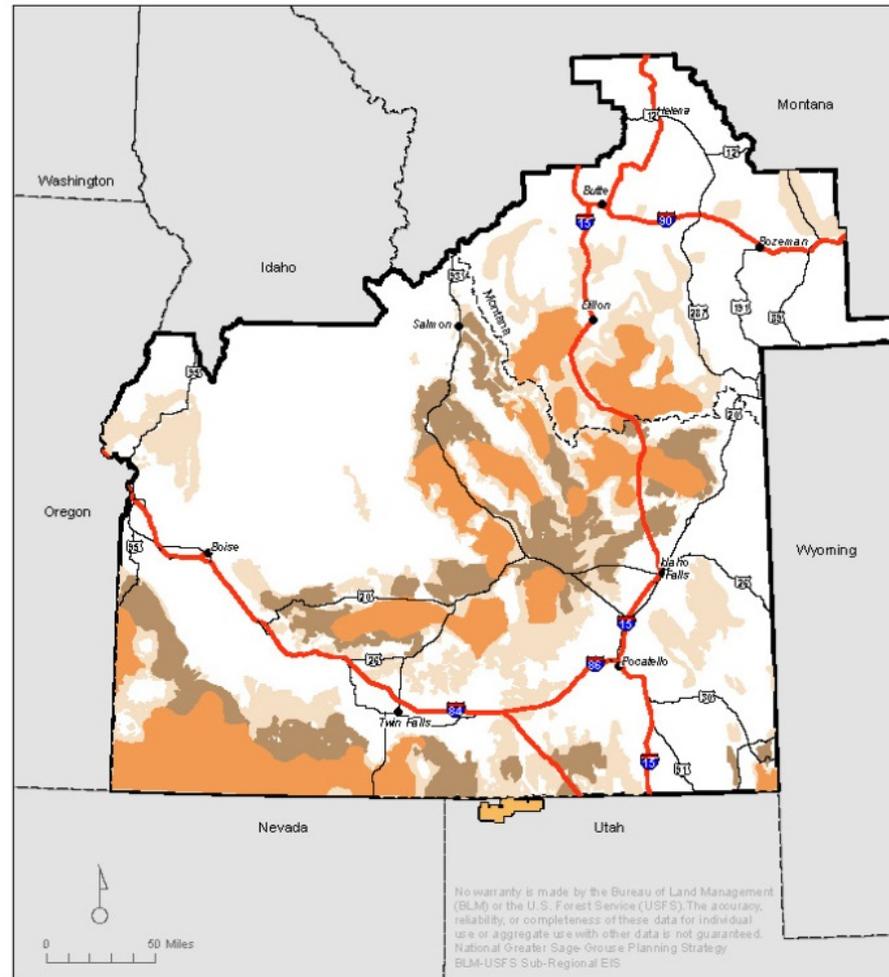




Idaho/Utah Governor's Alternative

Greater Sage-Grouse Areas

Core Habitat Zone Important Habitat Zone General Habitat Zone



- Idaho Core Zone / Montana Preliminary Priority Mgt. Area
- Idaho Important Zone
- Idaho General Zone / Montana Preliminary General Mgt. Area
- Utah Habitat within SGMA
- Analysis Boundary





Alternative Comparison

Program	A	B	C	D	E	F
<u>Habitat</u> PPMA (PPH – 8.3M) PMMA PGMA(PGH – 2.9M)	0	8.3 M	11.2 M	7.0 M 1.3 M 2.9 M	Core – 4.9 M Import. – 2.7 M General –3.5 M	8.3 M 2.9 M 0.5 M Restoration
<u>Adaptive Management</u>	None	Develop	Develop	Habitat and Population Triggers Modifies Medial Areas	Hard and Soft Habitat and Population Triggers Modifies Important Areas	Develop
<u>Right-of Way</u> PPMA or Core	Varies	Exclusion	Exclusion	Avoidance-w/Exclusions & RDF	Avoidance-w/mitigation	Exclusion
PMMA or Imp. PGMA or General	Varies Varies	Avoidance	Exclusion	Avoidance-w/RDF Avoidance-w/RDF	Avoidance-w/mitigation Varies	Exclusion
<u>Renewable</u> PPMA or Core	Varies	Exclusion	Exclusion	Exclusion	Avoid -w/mitigation	Exclusion
PMMA or Imp. PGMA or General	Varies	Exclusion	Exclusion	Avoidance Avoidance	Avoid-w/mitigation Varies	Exclusion
<u>Fluid Minerals</u> PPMA or Core	Varies	Closed	Closed	Closed Outside High Potential Areas	Wyoming Governor’s Executive Order Direction	Closed
PMMA or Imp. PGMA or General	Varies	NSO	Closed	NSO near leks in High Potential Areas		Closed





Alternative Comparison (Cont.)

Resource	A	B	C	D	E	F
<u>Locatable</u> PPMA or Core	Open	Withdrawn	Withdrawn	Require 3809 Plans	Open	Withdrawn
PMMA or Imp. PGMA or General	Open	Open	Withdrawn	Require 3809 Plans Require 3809 Plans	Open Open	Withdrawn
<u>Livestock Use</u> PPMA or Core	Varies	Incorporate GRSG Mgt Objectives	Closed	Same as Alt B	Incorporate GRSG Mgt Guidelines and Adaptive Mgt Where Populations Declining	25% Reduction
PMMA or Imp. PGMA or Genera	Varies		Closed			25% Reduction
<u>Travel</u> PPMA or Core	Open	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited
PMMA or Imp. PGMA or Genera	Open	Limited	Limited	Limited Limited	Limited Limited	Limited
<u>ACEC</u> Acres	350 K	No Additional	2.5 M	No Additional	No Additional	8.3 M





USFWS COT Report Threats

Management Zone IV: Snake River Plains

Threats are characterized as Y= threat is present and widespread; L= threat is present but localized; N= threat is not known to be present

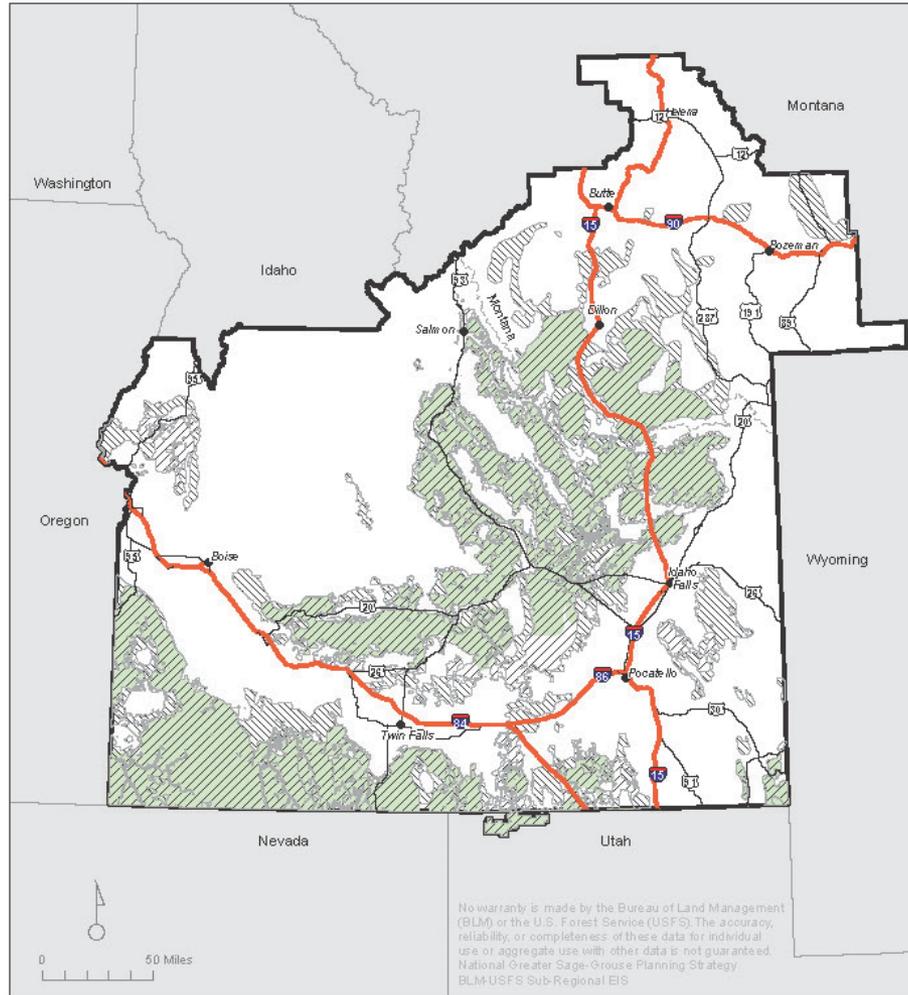
Population	% Chance of <500 birds/200 males in 2107	Isolated/Small Size	Sagebrush Elimination	Agriculture Conversion	Fire	Conifers	Weeds/Annual Grasses	Energy	Mining	Infrastructure	Grazing	Wild Horses and Burros	Recreation	Urbanization
East Central (ID)	ND	Y	L	Y	L	Y	L	Y	N	Y	Y	N	L	N
Southwest Montana	91.9-97.7	N	L	N	L	L	Y	L	L	L	Y	N	L	L
Snake-Salmon-Beaverhead (ID)	26.8	N	L	L	Y	L	Y	Y	N	L	Y	Y	L	N
Belt Mountains (MT)	ND	Y	L	Y	L	L	Y	L	N	L	Y	N	L	L
Weiser (ID)	ND	Y	L	L	L	L	Y	Y	N	L	Y	N	L	L
Northern Great Basin (OR, ID, NV portion)	99.7	N	L	L	Y	Y	Y	L	L	Y	Y	L	Y	Y
Box Elder (UT portion of Northern Great Basin)	99.7	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	L	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N





Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat (PPH and PGH) & Priority Areas for Conservation (PACs)

Idaho & SW Montana Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat



- GRSG COT PAC
- Priority Habitat
- General Habitat
- Analysis Boundary
- Interstate highway
- US highway
- Major Cities



Impact Analysis

- Amelioration of threats described in table in the Draft EIS.
 - Summarizes how each threats is addressed by alternative
 - All the threats identified in the COT Report are addressed.

Vegetation modeling of 10 Population Areas

- After 50 years Alternatives D & E (Preferred):
 - 4 Population Areas increase percent of area providing habitat for GRSG
 - 1 Population Areas decreases percent of area providing habitat for GRSG
 - 5 Population Areas maintain percent of area providing habitat for GRSG

All five action alternatives and limited areas within the No Action Alternative meet the Purpose and Need by providing conservation measures to protect Greater Sage-Grouse populations and habitat.



Idaho and Southwestern Montana Sub-Regional Greater Sage-Grouse Land Use Plan Amendment Summary

- Cooperating Agencies, Tribes, Regional ID and Management Team and WO (BLM and FS) have reviewed Administrative Draft EIS
 - Administrative Draft EIS has been updated based on comments and all outstanding issues have been resolved
- Regional Management Team and National Policy Team (State, Forest Service, USFWS) support issuance of DEIS for public review
- U. S. Fish and Wildlife has participated on ID Team, through reviews and approvals (Regional ID and Management Teams)
- Next Steps
 - Issue DEIS for 90 day public comment – November 1, 2013
 - Issue FEIS- Summer 2014
 - BLM/FS issue separate Records of Decision- Fall 2014





Draft Comment Period and Public Meetings

- ✓ **Draft Released for Public Comment – November 1st, 2013**

- ✓ **90-day Public Comment Period Ends – January 29th, 2014**

- ✓ **Public Meetings – January 2014**
 - ✓ **Murphy, Idaho - January 6th, 2014**
 - ✓ **Idaho Falls, Idaho - January 7th, 2014**
 - ✓ **Salmon, Idaho - January 8th, 2014**
 - ✓ **Dillon, MT - January 9th, 2014**
 - ✓ **Pocatello, ID - January, 13th, 2014**
 - ✓ **Twin Falls, ID - January 14th, 2014**
 - ✓ **Boise, ID - January 15th, 2014**



Questions and Discussion

