

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 Greater Sage-Grouse populations. Indirectly, mineral development can result in the loss of Greater 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

- Maintain current management from 21 BLM and 8 Forest Service LUPs.
- Fluid mineral leasing categories vary by planning area.
- Most GRSG mapped occupied habitat is open to locatable and mineral material development. Stipulations vary by planning area.

Alternative B

- Close PPMA 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 PGMA 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).

Alternative C

- Close PPMA to new fluid mineral leasing.
- Recommend PPMA for withdrawal from mineral entry.
- Close PPMA to mineral material sales.
- Close PPMA to non-energy solid leasable 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).

Alternative D

- Close areas of no and low potential in PPMA and PMMA to fluid mineral leasing; open areas of moderate and high potential subject to NSO, CSU, and TL stipulations.
- Apply RDFs as conditions of approval for leased fluid minerals.
- Do not recommend additional areas for locatable mineral withdrawal.
- Do not authorize new mineral material development within 3 km (1.86 miles) of occupied leks.
- Close PPMA and PMMA to new non-energy leasable mineral leases. Open PGMA for leasing subject to CSU and TL stipulations. Require timing restrictions and BMPs on existing leases.

Alternative E

- Open CHZ and IHZ to fluid mineral leasing subject to NSO stipulations. Apply BMPs for leased fluid minerals.
- Locatable mineral, Non-energy leasable mineral and mineral materials management is the same as Alternative A.

Alternative F

- Same as Alternative B.



**Idaho and Southwestern Montana
Greater Sage-Grouse Draft LUPA/EIS**

