

CONTROLLED SURFACE USE STIPULATION

CRUCIAL WINTER RANGE – BIG GAME AND/OR SAGE GROUSE

Stipulation: Prior to surface-disturbing or disruptive activities a plan to maintain functionality of crucial winter range for big game and/or Greater Sage-Grouse will be prepared by the proponent and implemented upon approval by the AO. Within crucial winter range surface-disturbing or disruptive activities will be restricted or prohibited within 6/10 of a mile from any existing surface-disturbing or disruptive activity. The plan shall address how short-term and long-term direct and indirect effects to crucial winter range will be mitigated based on current science and research (Appendix E.5).

On the lands described below:

Objective: To protect big game and Greater Sage-Grouse crucial winter range from loss and degradation, and to facilitate long-term sustainability of those wildlife populations utilizing crucial winter ranges by minimizing mortality of animals through disturbance and disruption.

Exception: The AO may grant an exception if an environmental review determines that the action as proposed or conditioned (such as exceeding the 6/10 of a mile surface-disturbing or disruptive activity restriction) would not compromise the functionality of the crucial winter range.

Modification: The AO may modify the area subject to the stipulation if an environmental analysis finds that a portion of the area no longer contains crucial winter range and populations of wintering animals no longer occupy the area. The AO may also modify the size and shape of the area based on studies documenting actual habitat suitability and/or local periods of actual use.

Waiver: This stipulation may be waived, if it is determined that wintering animals no longer occupy significant portions of the area and there is no reasonable likelihood of future use as crucial winter range.

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