

## NO SURFACE OCCUPANCY STIPULATION

### GREATER SAGE-GROUSE PRIORITY HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREAS (PHMAs)

**Stipulation:** Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs will be managed as No Surface Occupancy and Use (127,735 surface and 412,822 oil and gas subsurface mineral acres.) These areas will be open to oil and gas leasing with no surface occupancy<sup>7</sup> stipulation. All sage-grouse habitat that is not part of PHMAs will be managed as GHMA as noted in Figure 1-2.

On the lands described below:

**Objective:** Within Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs maximize the integrity of the habitat, strive to maintain or improve sage-grouse populations, and at a minimum sage-grouse habitat so populations in the Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs reflect population trends exhibited by representative sage-grouse trend data from SDGFP lek data (protection priority area controlled surface use.)

**Exception:** The AO may grant an exception only where the proposed action:

- (i) Will not have direct, indirect, or cumulative effects on GRSG or its habitat; or
- (ii) Is proposed to be undertaken as an alternative to a similar action occurring on a nearby parcel, and will provide a clear conservation gain to GRSG.

Exceptions based on conservation gain (ii) may only be considered in:

- (a) PHMAs of mixed ownership where Federal minerals underlie less than fifty percent (50%) of the total surface, or
- (b) Areas of the public lands where the proposed exception is an alternative to an action occurring on a nearby parcel subject to a valid Federal fluid mineral lease existing as of the date of this RMP. (See further requirements in the WEMs preamble near the beginning of the Appendix G.1.)

**Modification:** None

**Waiver:** None