

Lands and Realty

Infrastructure is a major component of the BLM and Forest Service lands and realty programs. Infrastructure such as roads and power lines directly affect Greater Sage-Grouse through habitat fragmentation, habitat loss, and by posing a collision hazard. Habitat fragmentation is the separation or splitting apart of previously contiguous habitat. Indirectly, infrastructure increases the likelihood for sage-grouse mortality through increased vehicle traffic and perching opportunities for avian predators.

Issue: What measures will the BLM and Forest Service put in place to protect Greater Sage-Grouse habitat from the effects of infrastructure development?

Management Actions					
Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	Alternative F
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain current management from 12 BLM and 2 Forest Service LUPs. Manage right-of-ways (ROWs)/special use authorizations (SUAs) as follows (acres): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No restrictions: 17,342,100 ROW Avoidance: 114,200 ROW Exclusion: 276,600 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage PPMAs as exclusion areas for new ROW/SUAs (12,693,500 acres). Manage PGMAs as avoidance areas for new ROW/SUAs (4,932,400 acres). Within designated ROW or SUA corridors encumbered by existing ROW or SUA exclusion areas, allow new ROWs if the project can be completed (co-located) within the existing disturbed area. Evaluate and take advantage of opportunities to remove, bury, or modify existing power lines within PPMAs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage PPMA as exclusion for new ROWs/SUAs (17,732,900 acres). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage PPMAs and PGMAs (17,456,300 acres) as avoidance areas for new ROW/SUAs. Exclude new wind and solar ROWs in PPMAs and PGMAs. Development within PPMAs and PGMAs could occur if the development incorporates appropriate required design features (RDFs) (e.g. seasonal restrictions or limitations on noise and tall structures) and development results in no net un-mitigated loss of PPMAs and PGMAs. Where appropriate, bury new and existing utility lines as mitigation unless not technically feasible. In GRSG habitat, where existing ROWs or SUAs are no longer in use, coordinate with the lease holder or Forest Service Special Use Permit holder to relinquish the ROW or SUA and reclaim the site by removing overhead lines and other infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage PPMAs and PGMAs as avoidance areas for new ROW/SUAs (12,769,200 acres). Proposed features over 32 acres per square mile would require application of the avoid, minimize, and mitigation evaluation in Occupied and Suitable Habitat. Site new linear features in existing corridors or, at a minimum, co-locate with existing linear features in SGMAs. Infrastructure should not be placed within 0.6 miles (1 km) of seeps, springs and wet meadows within identified brood rearing habitats wherever possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage PPMAs and PGMAs as exclusion areas for new ROW/SUAs (17,732,900 acres). Within designated ROW corridors encumbered by existing ROW authorizations, new ROWs may be co-located only if the entire footprint of the proposed project (including construction and staging) can be completed within the existing disturbance associated with the authorized ROWs.



Photo Credit: F. A. Martin and State of Nevada