

**Utah Greater Sage-Grouse  
Proposed Land Use Plan Amendment and  
Final Environmental Impact Statement**

**Responsible Agencies:** United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management (Lead Agency)

United States Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service

**Abstract:** This proposed land use plan amendment and final environmental impact statement (EIS) has been prepared by the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service with input from 28 cooperating agencies/entities. The EIS considers amending 14 BLM and 6 Forest Service land use plans. It describes and analyzes six alternatives for managing Greater Sage-Grouse (GRSG) habitat on approximately 3.4 million acres of BLM-administered and National Forest System lands in Utah and southwestern Wyoming, as well as approximately 0.7 million acres of BLM-administered subsurface federal mineral estate beneath non-federal surface ownership in Utah. Alternative A is a continuation of current management (No Action Alternative); use of public lands and resources would continue to be managed under the current BLM and Forest Service land use plans, as amended. Alternative B is based on management actions from the Sage-Grouse National Technical Team's *A Report on National Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Measures*. Alternative C is based on management actions submitted by various groups during public scoping. Alternative D was developed by the agencies' interdisciplinary team to address local ecological site variability and address conservation of GRSG in context with other competing human interests. Alternative E is based on the State of Utah's *Conservation Plan for Greater Sage-Grouse in Utah* and the State of Wyoming Governor's Executive Orders 2011-05 and 2013-3. The Proposed Plan is based on Alternative D, the preferred alternative in the Draft EIS, but it includes elements of the other alternatives from the Draft EIS. The Proposed Plan represents the agencies' proposed management approach, it reflects the best combination of decisions to achieve BLM and Forest Service goals and policies, meets the purpose and need, and addresses the key planning issues. The Proposed Plan provides consistent GRSG habitat management across the range by focusing on a landscape-scale approach to conserving GRSG and its habitat through minimizing additional surface disturbance, improving GRSG habitat condition, and reducing the threat of fire to GRSG habitat. The alternatives present a range of management actions to achieve the goal to conserve, enhance, and restore the habitats upon which GRSG populations in the Utah Sub-region depend. Major planning issues addressed include energy and minerals, lands and realty (including rights-of-way), wildfire, vegetation management (including invasive species and conifer encroachment), livestock grazing, recreation and travel management, and socioeconomics.

**Protests:** Protests must be postmarked or received no later than 30 days after publication of the US Environmental Protection Agency Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*. Refer to the instructions in the letter following this abstract for additional information on how to protest. The close of the protest period will be announced in news releases and on the Utah Sub-region website: [http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/prog/planning/SG\\_RMP\\_rev.html](http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/prog/planning/SG_RMP_rev.html).

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