

Sage Grouse Habitat Fire Management Best Management Practices

- Develop sage grouse “tool boxes,” which contain maps, listing of resource advisors, contact information, local guidance and other helpful information.
- Provide localized maps (based upon the Interim Key Habitat for Sage-grouse and sage brush map, dated June 16, 2008) to local dispatch offices and extended attack incident commanders for use in prioritizing wildfire suppression resources and designing suppression tactics.
- Assign a sage-grouse resource advisor to all extended attack fires in or near key sage-grouse habitat areas. Provide training to sage-grouse resource advisors on wildfire suppression organization, objectives, tactics, and procedures to develop a cadre of qualified individuals prior to fire season.
- On critical fire weather days, pre-position additional fire suppression resources.
- During periods of multiple fires, ensure line officers are involved in priority setting.
- Avoid sage-grouse lek areas whenever possible when locating wildfire suppression facilities, including base camps, spike camps, drop points, staging areas heli-bases and heli-spots.
- Power wash all firefighting vehicles, to the extent possible, including: engines, water tenders, personal vehicles, and ATVs prior to deploying in or near sage-grouse habitat areas to minimize noxious weed spread into these areas.
- Encourage firefighting vehicle use on established roads and trails during wildfire suppression operations in or near key sage-grouse habitat areas.
- Minimize burnout operations in key sage-grouse habitat areas by constructing direct fire line whenever practical to do so.
- Utilize retardant and mechanized equipment to minimize burned acreage during initial attack.