

Form S-2: Sage-Grouse Site-Scale Habitat Suitability Worksheet – Breeding Habitat (Leks) Directions

1. Complete one form for each occupied, unoccupied, or undetermined lek in the home range or lek group, as needed.
2. Complete all location information at the top of the form. Most of the information should be self-explanatory except the following:

Population: Identify the population with which the habitat is associated. This definition also includes small populations. Population names are found in figure 3.

Home Range Name: Identify the home range area using a major drainage area or other distinguishing land feature (e.g., Little Lost River home range).

Land Cover Type: Identify the cover type at the lek site. Use plant alliances or associations (Reid et al. 2002) for sagebrush or grassland communities; use www.natureserve.org/explorer (International Classification of Ecological Communities) or other sampling strata to describe the habitat (e.g., percent sagebrush categories). Use the species symbol for dominant species in the overstory and understory (table B-1), for example ARTRW8 (alliance level – Wyoming big sagebrush) or ARTRW8/FEID (association level – Wyoming big sagebrush/Idaho fescue). Note whether the lek is located in a nonhabitat (e.g., agriculture, urban, industrial) area. If the lek is located on a road, in a livestock watering area, or on a similar type of surface within a plant community, indicate this cover type in the following manner: ARTRW8:road; ARTRW8:trough area.

Lek ID #: Use the identification number or name that is used in the statewide database.

Lek Status: Determine the status using the following definitions. Note that the specific terms and definitions for lek status may vary by state. Use the terminology appropriate for your area.

Occupied lek: [*Greater Sage-Grouse*] A lek that has been active during at least one breeding season within the prior 5 years. [*Gunnison Sage-Grouse*] A lek that has been attended by males in the previous 5 years.

Unoccupied lek: [*Greater Sage-Grouse*] A lek that has not been active during a period of 5 consecutive years. [*Gunnison Sage-Grouse*] A lek that has been inactive for 5 years.

Undetermined lek: Any lek that has not been documented as active in the last 5 years, but for which survey information is insufficient to designate the lek as unoccupied.

3. Complete indicator measurements:

Availability of Sagebrush Cover: Adjacent sagebrush distance is measured from the edge of the lekking area to the edge of the nearest stand of mature sagebrush of sufficient extent to provide protective cover.

Proximity of Detrimental Land Uses: Such land uses include oil/gas wells, roads, agricultural fields, subdivisions, etc.

Proximity of Trees or Other Tall Structures: Trees and tall structures are considered “within the vicinity” when they provide avian perch sites with a view of birds on the lek.

4. Determine the appropriate suitability category and mark (✓) each indicator as suitable, marginal, or unsuitable.
5. Describe **anthropogenic noise**. Indicate the presence of and describe any anthropogenic noises observed during the lekking period. Identify the noise source (highway vehicles, generator, wind turbines, military overflights, etc.) and describe the occurrence frequency (constant or periodic), volume (loud to soft), and pitch (high to low). Use a decibel meter, if available, to record data when anthropogenic noises are a concern for the lek.
6. Determine **site-scale suitability**. Overall suitability takes into consideration the relationship between the indicators and their relative importance. This evaluation is based on professional judgment using the indicators for guidance. Explain overall site suitability in the rationale section.
7. Attach photographs of the lek site.
8. Provide a copy of this form to the state wildlife agency's sage-grouse coordinator.