



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Wyoming State Office

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In Reply Refer To:
6500 (930) P

August 3, 2004

Instruction Memorandum No. WY-2004-054
Expires 9/30/05

To: Field Managers and Deputy State Directors

From: Associate State Director

Subject: Conservation Planning for Sage-grouse in Wyoming

During the past 5 years there has been a greater emphasis placed on sage-grouse and sagebrush steppe habitats by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and other management agencies. Sage-grouse populations have declined substantially during the past 40 years with correspondingly additional activities occurring in sagebrush habitats during this period. Today the BLM manages at least 50 percent of the remaining sage-grouse/sagebrush habitat in North America. As you know, a statewide Sage-grouse Conservation Plan has been completed and three sage-grouse local working groups are currently developing local plans for the Powder River Basin, Upper Green River Basin, and the Bates Hole/Shirley Basin areas.

Recently I have had discussions with Terry Cleveland, Director of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. During these discussions I have been informed by their Director of the Department's priority in accelerating the initiation of all sage-grouse local working groups in the state. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department has made sage-grouse conservation planning one of its top priorities and has adjusted resources within their agency to meet this need.

To accelerate the pace and increase efficiency of local conservation planning efforts, the Department has combined three of the original 11 local working groups. There will now be a total of eight local working groups across the state. The BLM will be participating in seven of the eight groups. The BLM will not be participating in the Jackson Hole local working group due to limited land management responsibilities. The Cheyenne River Basin area will be incorporated into the existing Powder River Basin local working group and possibly one or two new members will be added. The Southwest and Lower Green River areas will be combined into one area local working group (Southwest) and will serve this area. The Great Divide Basin and Upper Platte areas will be combined and will be called the South-central local working group. Please review the original boundaries of the local working groups found in Attachment 1 and the new boundaries found in Attachment 2 to determine the impact to your Field Office and make adjustments of your staff's workload to participate in these groups. All local working groups are expected to be selected by August 15, 2004, and initial meetings are expected to occur by September 1, 2004.

Participation in all sage-grouse local working groups will be given top priority by all BLM Field Offices when requested by regional Wyoming Game and Fish Department personnel. Due to the combination of several of the local working groups, some Field Offices will not have representation on each local working group that is ongoing within their Field Office boundaries. It will be the responsibility of the Field Manager and his/her representative on the

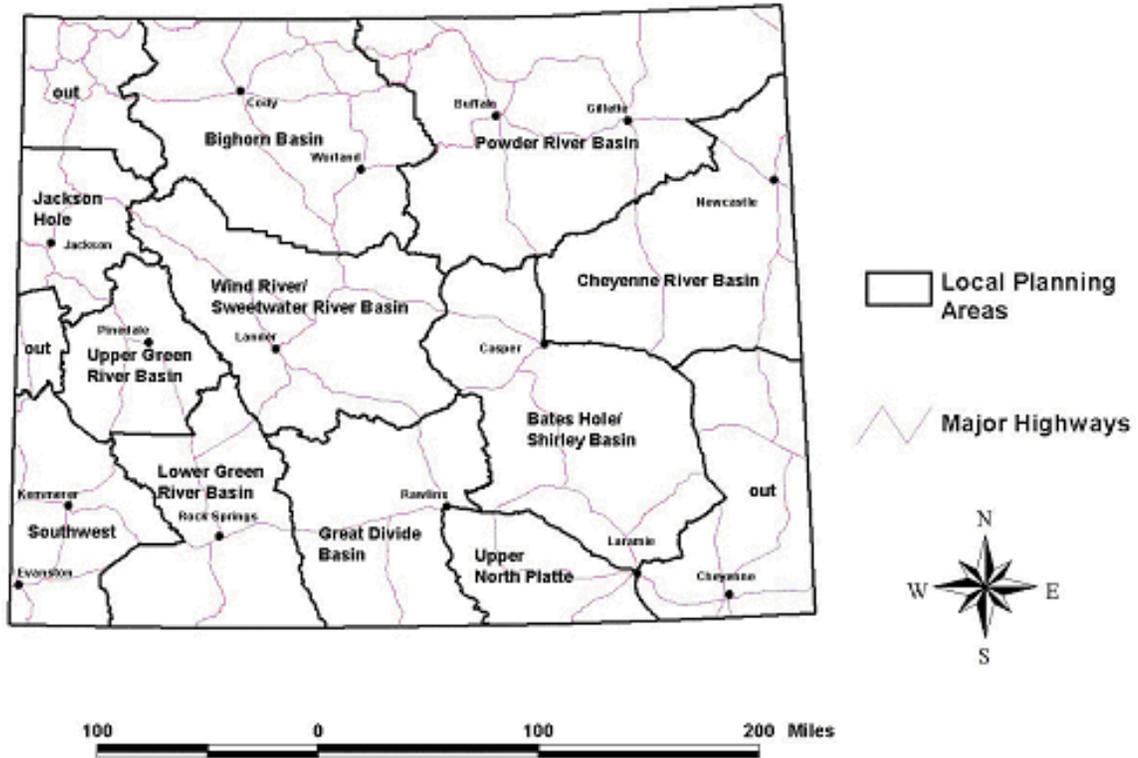
local working group to ensure that adjoining Field Offices are informed of progress and coordinate between affected BLM Field Offices. I am also recommending that either Field Managers or management representation from each Field Office attend the initial and periodic local working group meetings to keep me informed of the local working groups that are ongoing in the respective Field Offices.

If you have any questions concerning this issue, please contact Tom Rinkes at 307-332-8404.

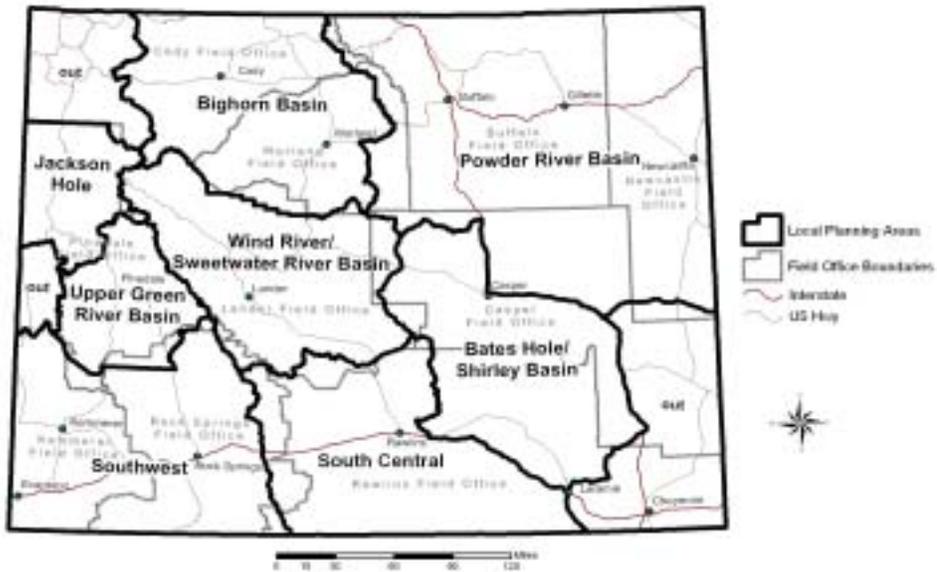
/s/ Alan L. Kesterke

2 Attachments:

- 1 - [Former Wyoming sage-grouse local working group map](#) (1 p.)
- 2 - [Updated Wyoming sage-grouse local working group map](#) (1 p.)



Original Wyoming Sage-Grouse Local Working Group Boundaries - 2003



Wyoming Local Working Group Boundaries – August 2004