Sage-Grouse Conservation Objectives Draft Report

(Submitted August 1, 2012)

Sage-Grouse Conservation Objectives Team

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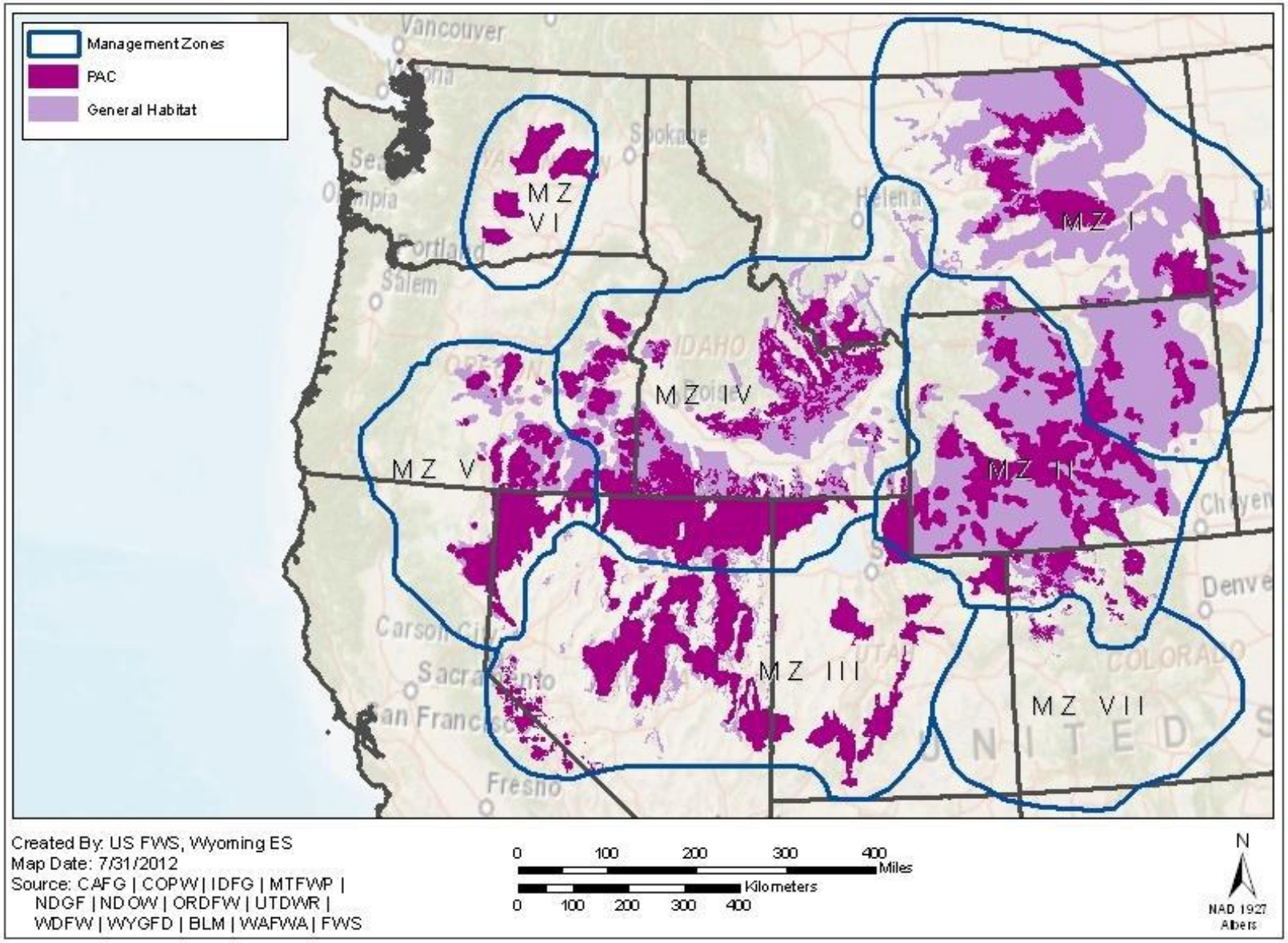
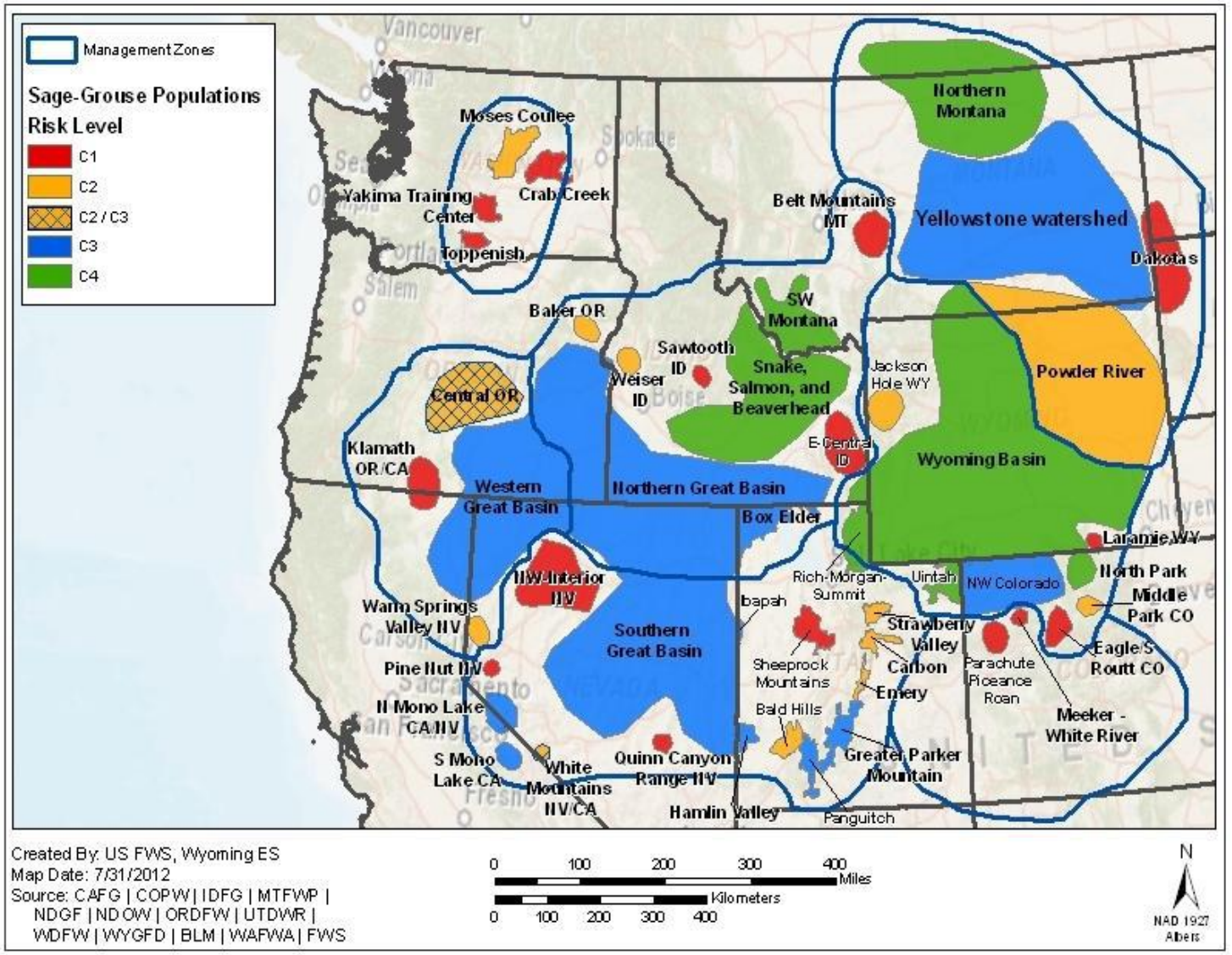


COT report (p.31): PAC = Priority Areas of Conservation (i.e., key habitat areas). The COT acknowledges some PACs could be lost, wholly or in part, to catastrophic events regardless of new human activity, particularly in areas where wildfire is prevalent. The redundancy built into the rangewide / state-level planning efforts should allow for some losses while still permitting long-term species conservation. However, losses of PACs from controllable anthropogenic activity must be avoided.



COT report (p.33): The COT recognizes that threat amelioration, even if all threats are removed, may not be sufficient to change the threat status of some C1 and C2 populations … . In these cases, the COT encourages pro-active management for non-anthropogenic threats (e.g. strategic placement of fire-fighting resources) and restoration efforts where the potential for successful long-term restoration is good. Management of C1 and C2 areas should not however preclude conservation actions necessary for maintaining C4 areas or improving C3 areas to a C4 status.

COT p. 14—risk categories

C1 = HIGH RISK. The population is at high risk because of extremely limited and/or rapidly declining numbers, range, and/or habitat, making sage-grouse in this area highly vulnerable to extirpation.

C2 = AT RISK. The population is at risk because of very limited and/or declining numbers, range, and/or habitat, making sage-grouse in this area vulnerable to extirpation.

C3 = POTENTIAL RISK. The population is potentially at risk because of limited and/or declining numbers, range, and/or habitat even though sage-grouse may be locally abundant in some portions of the area.

C4 = LOW RISK. Sage-grouse are common or uncommon, but not rare, and usually widespread through the area. They are apparently not vulnerable at this time, but there may be cause for long-term concern.

Unit Name	<200 Males/500 Birds?	% Chance of <50 birds/ 20 males in 2037	% Chance of <50 birds/ 20 males in 2107	% Chance of <500 birds/ 200 males in 2037	% Chance of <500 birds/ 200 males in 2107	Risk Level[1]	Isolated/Small Size	Sagebrush Elimination	Agriculture Conversion	Fire	Disease	Predation	Conifers	Weeds/Annual Grasses	Energy	Mining	Infrastructure	Livestock	Feral Horses	Recreation	Urbanization	Drought	Climate Change
							A: Substantial, Imminent B: Moderate, Imminent C: Substantial, Non-Imminent					D: Moderate, Non-Imminent E: Localized, Substantial F: Widespread, Low severity						G: Slight Threat H: Unthreatened U: Unknown					
Management Zone V: Northern Great Basin		*1.0 (2.0)*	*2.1 (2.3)*	*7.2 (5.0)*	*29 (8.1)*																		
Central Oregon (*OR*)	N	4.2	15.2	74.9	91.3	C2 / C3	H	E	E	C	U	U	B	D	E	G	E	D	U	E	E	U	U
Klamath (*OR, CA*	Y	ND	ND	100	100	C1	A	U	U	D	U	U	A	D	E	H	G / U	U	U	U	U	U	U
Warm Springs Valley (*NV*)	Y	ND	ND	ND	ND	C2	D	G	G	A	U	B	F	B	D	G	B	G	E	F	C	U	U
Western Great Basin (*OR, CA, NV*)	N	5.5	6.4	6.4	99.1	C3	H	G	G	B	G	U	B	B	E	E	E	B / C	B	U	H	U	U

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Belt Mountains (*MT*)	Y	ND	ND	ND	ND	C1	A	E	B	E	H	F	E	D	E	H	E	F	H	E	E	U	U
Weiser (*ID*)	N	ND	ND	ND	ND	C2	B	E	E	E	D	F	E	D	D	H	E	F		E	E	U	U
Northern Great Basin (*OR, ID, NV portion*)	N	2.1	2.5	2.5	99.7	C3	H	E	E	A	E	F	B	A	E	E	B	F	E	F	G	U	U
Box Elder (*UT portion of Northern Great Basin*)	N					C3	H	H	G	A	H	G	B	B	E	G	G	H	H	G	H	U	U
Sawtooth (*ID*)	Y	ND	ND	ND	ND	C1	A	E	H	E	D	U	U	E	H	H	F	F	H	E	H	U	U

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Management Zone IV: Snake River Plains		*2.3 (1.4)*	*10.5 (6.1)*	*19.4 (7.9)*	*39.7 (9.6)*																		
Baker (*OR*)	N	61.9	100	66.8	100	C2	D	G	G	G	G / U	U	E	D	E	G	E	U	H	E	E	U	U
East Central (*ID*)	Y	ND	ND	ND	ND	C1	A	E	G	E	D	F	G	E	D	H	F	F	H	E	H	U	U
Southwest Montana (*Bannack, Red Rocks, Wisdom, and Bridges*)	N	Bannack: 6.4 Red Rock: 0.1	Bannack: 70.2 Red Rock: 55.3	Bannack: 32.7 Red Rock: 2.5	Bannack: 97.7 Red Rock: 91.9	C4	H	E	H	E	H	F	E	D	E	E	E	F	H	E	E	U	U
Snake-Salmon-Beaverhead (*ID*)	N	4.2	10.2	19.3	26.8	C4	H	E	E	A	E	F	E	B	D	H	E	F	F	E	H	C	U

COT p. 13—based on Severity, Scope, and Immediacy, population threats were assigned a rank value of A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, or U where:

A = Substantial, imminent threat. Threat is moderate to severe and imminent for most (> 60 percent) of the population or area.

B = Moderate and imminent threat. Threat is moderate to severe and imminent for a significant proportion (20-60 percent) of the population or area.

C = Substantial, non- imminent threat. Threat is moderate to severe but not imminent (> 10 years) for most of the population or area.

D = Moderate, non- imminent threat. Threat is moderate to severe but not imminent for a significant portion of the population or area.

E = Localized substantial threat. Threat is moderate to severe for a small but significant proportion of the population or area.

F = Widespread, low-severity threat. Threat is of low severity but affects (or would affect) most or a significant portion of the population or area.

G = Slightly threatened. Threats, while recognizable, are of low severity, or affecting only a small portion of the population or area.

H = Unthreatened. Threats if any, when considered in comparison with natural fluctuation and change, are minimal or very localized, not leading to significant loss or degradation of populations or area even over a few decades' time.

U = Unknown. The available information is not sufficient to assign degree of threat as above.

NEAR TERM GREATER SAGE GROUSE ACTION PLAN

Presented to:

The Greater Sage Grouse Exec. Oversight Committee

&

Sage Grouse Task Force

Hilton Head, SC (Sept. 2012)

By the:

Rangewide Interagency Sage Grouce Conservation Team

Priority	Conservation Action	Threats Addressed	Focus Areas Affected	Costs
High	Fire suppression strategy	Wildfire	CA, ID, NV, OR, UT & WA	$50,000
	High capacity, first strike aerial asset	Wildfire	CA, ID, NV, OR, UT & WA	Unk.
	Proactively establish defensible fire lines	Wildfire	CA, ID, NV, OR, UT & WA	$10 -20 K/mile
	NASECA	Agricultural Conversion, Conifer Encroachment, Exotic Annual Grasses, Infrastructure, Urbanization	Range-wide	Staff
	Farm Bill policy	Agricultural Conversion	MT, SD, ND, WA	Staff
	Regulatory mechanisms	Energy, Infrastructure, Urbanization	Range-wide	Staff
	Targeted easements	Agricultural Conversion, Urbanization	Ag Conversion: MT, SD, ND, WA; Urbanization – All states	Redirected Resources
	Geospatial conifer mapping	Conifer Encroachment	CA, CO, ID, NV, OR & UT	$250,000
	Accelerate conifer removal	Conifer Encroachment	CA, CO, ID, NV, OR & UT	$30-60 mil
Moderate	Pre-deploy fire-fighting resources	Wildfire	CA, ID, NV, OR, UT & WA	Redirect Resources
	Annual grass management	Annual Exotic Grasses	CA, ID, NV, OR, UT & WA	$40 - 80 mill

Priority	Conservation Action	Threats Addressed	Focus Areas Affected	Costs
	Accelerate research on annual grasses	Annual Exotic Grasses	CA, ID, NV, OR, UT & WA	$5 mill
	Sustainable grazing management	Agricultural Conversion	MT, SD, ND, WA	Redirected Resources
Low	Contain annual grasses	Annual Exotic Grasses	CA, ID, NV, OR, UT & WA	$10+ mil
	Selective treatment of late encroachment	Conifer Encroachment	CA, CO, ID, NV, OR & UT	$3 mil
Research	Effects of juniper removal	Conifer Encroachment	on-going, south-central Oregon and Colorado	
	Effects of grazing management	Agricultural Conversion, Urbanization	on-going, central Montana	