



**Oregon Greater Sage-Grouse
Proposed Resource Management Plan
Amendment/Final Environmental
Impact Statement**

June 2015

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Proposed Plan – High Level Overview

- Status Quo was not OK!
- Limit or Eliminate Disturbance in Priority Habitat
- Establishes Disturbance Limits (Human Caused)
- Provides specific habitat objectives and monitoring requirements
- Identifies adaptive management triggers (habitat and population) and responses if tripped
- Quantifies lek buffers (with site specific adaptability)

Navigating the RMPA/FEIS

Chapter 1 – Introduction

Chapter 2 – Alternatives

Chapter 3 – Affected Environment

Chapter 4 – Environmental Consequences

Chapter 5 – Cumulative Impacts

Chapter 6 – Consultation and Coordination

Chapter 7 – References

Chapter 8 – Acronyms and Definitions

Appendices (A - X)



Key Appendices

Appendix C – Required Design Features and Best Management Practices

- Additional requirements to mitigate impacts on GRSG

Appendix D – Adaptive Management

Appendix E – Mitigation

Appendix F – Fluid Mineral Leasing Stipulations, Exceptions, Modifications and Waivers

Appendix G – Monitoring Framework

Appendix H – Fire and Invasives Assessment Tool

- Describes the FIAT process and science behind the tool

Appendix I – Disturbance Cap Calculation Method



Proposed Plan – Key Definitions

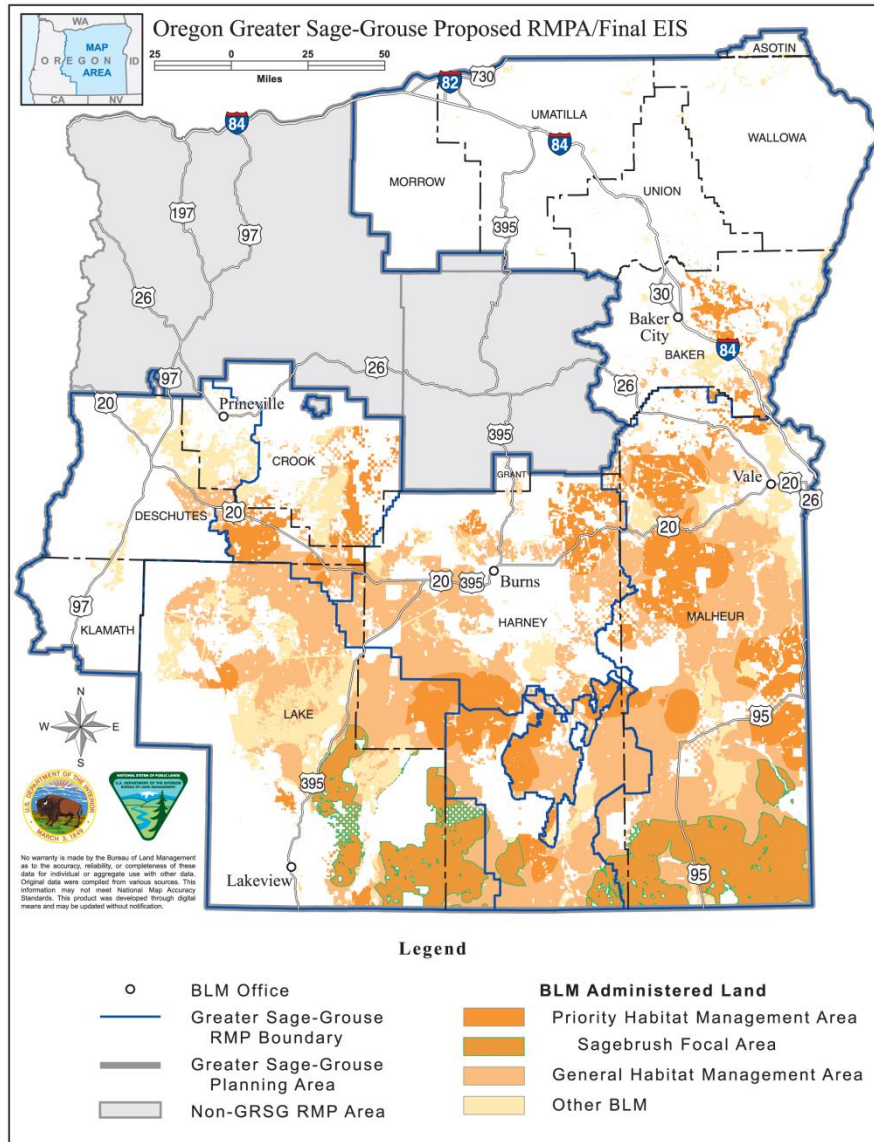
- **GHMA:** General Habitat Management Area
- **PHMA:** Priority Habitat Management Area
- **SFA:** Sagebrush Focal Area
- **NSO:** No Surface Occupancy, for example, directional drilling can be used, but no equipment, facilities or activity can occur on the surface
- **FIAT:** Fire and Invasives Assessment Tool

Proposed Plan – Changes from Draft

Allocations/Land Designations

- 22,000 acres closed to grazing compared to 118,000 acres
- All PHMA and GHMA would be retained
- All PHMA stipulated No Surface Occupancy
- Sagebrush Focal Areas (SFAs) in Harney, Lake and Malheur counties (1.9 MM ac in OR, 16 MM ac range wide)
 - Recommended for mineral withdrawal
 - Priority for Conservation Actions
 - Represent recognized “strongholds”
 - Exclusion for Wind & Solar

SFAs in Oregon



Proposed Plan

Goals, Objectives and Management Actions

- Specific actions identified in Tables 2-2 and 2-3.
- Land allocations, prioritization and methods are found or referred to in this part of the plan



Proposed Plan – Changes from Draft

Habitat Objectives

- Indicators and desired conditions of sage-grouse habitat
- Values are adjusted based on local science and monitoring data
- Consistent with the rangeland health indicators.

Examples:

- Perennial Grass and Forb Height: 7-9 inches
- % of seasonal habitat within 4 miles of lek meeting desired conditions: 70-85%
- Proximity of tall structures: none within 1 mile of lek
- Conifer cover < 5% within 4 miles of lek

Primary Threats in Oregon*

- Wildland Fire
- Non-native Invasive Annual Grasses
- Conifer Encroachment
- Grazing
- Disturbance (Infrastructure)

*Source: GRSB Conservation Objectives Final Report (USFWS 2013)



Wildland Fire Management

- **Proposed Plan Action WFM 1** - Complete an interagency landscape-scale assessment (Appendix H) to prioritize at-risk habitats and identify fuels management, preparedness, suppression, and restoration priorities based on the quality of habitat at risk as directed in the Secretarial Order for Rangeland Fire SO3336. Update these assessments as necessary or when major disturbances occur. Within Greater Sage-grouse habitat, prioritize suppression and fuels management activities based on an assessment of the quality of habitat at risk.
- **FIAT reports are available at:**
http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/sagegrouse/documents_and_resources.html
- **Secretarial Order 3336**
- **Preposition / Fire Severity**



Non-Native Invasive Plant Management

- **Crosses multiple programs** – Vegetation management, range management, wildlife fire management and recreation.
- **Proposed Plan Objective VG 3** – Reduce the area dominated by invasive annual grasses to no more than 5 percent within 4.0 miles of all occupied or pending leks. Manage vegetation to retain resistance to invasion where invasive annual grasses dominate less than 5 percent of the area within 4.0 miles of such leks.
- **Treatment Proposal** – Approximately 127,000 acres of principally annual grasses over the next ten years.

Conifer Treatments

- **Objective VG 2** – Reduce encroaching conifer cover to zero within 1.0 mile of all occupied or pending leks and to less than 5 percent within 4.0 miles of such leks at a rate at least equal to the rate of encroachment. Priorities for treatment are phase I and phase II juniper, and phase III juniper with a grass-forb understory.
- **Treatment Proposal** – Proposed to treat approximately 40,250 acres annually and 402,500 acres over next ten years.



Grazing

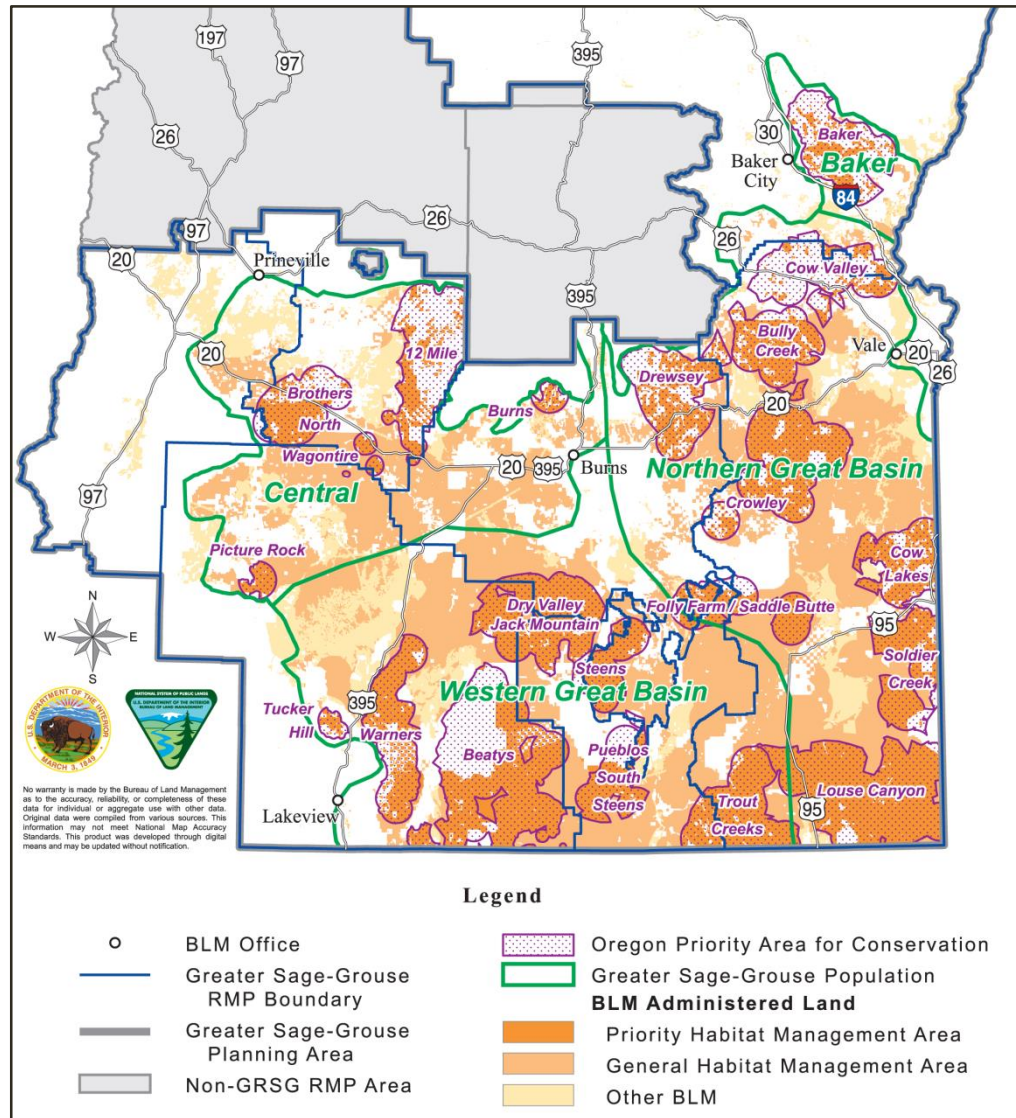
- Meeting Rangeland Health Standards
- Habitat indicators
- Key Research Natural Areas



Disturbance

- Proposed 3% disturbance cap, not to exceed 1% increase per decade.
- Surface disturbance categories include activities associated with energy development, mining and infrastructure.
- Disturbance cap does not include burned areas, agriculture, habitat treatments.
- Maintain a current database of disturbance with ODFW using range-wide and locally derived data sets.

Disturbance Scale



Mitigation

- Avoid, minimize, and compensate.
- Net conservation gain in all sage-grouse habitat.
- Implement in cooperation with State of Oregon.

Adaptive Management Strategy

- Appendix D
- Population and Habitat Thresholds
 - Sagebrush landscape cover
 - Population trends – annual and 5-year running mean
- Hard and soft trigger responses
- Reversing management decisions with threshold recovery

Next Steps

- Protest period ending June 29.
- Governor's consistency review ending July 29.
- Publish Record of Decision this summer.
- Implementation

Questions?

