

# BLM RMP IMPLEMENTATION

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**SageCon Partnership Meeting  
Baker City, OR  
September 30, 2016**

# Purpose and Need for RMP Amendment

Incorporate measures in existing land use plans to *conserve, enhance, and restore GRSG habitat*...in the context of the BLM's *multiple use and sustained yield* mission.



# Ongoing Implementation Activities

- Appreciation to all our partners
- Development of policy
  - Internal workshops
  - External workshops
  - GRSG Task Force
- Ongoing development of strategic conservation and restoration efforts
- Ongoing development of mitigation framework and mitigation mechanisms

# Policy Development

- Managing Diffuse Uses
- Managing Discrete Uses
- Strategic Restoration & Reducing Threats
- Reporting and Adapting



# MANAGING DIFFUSE USES

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Wild horse and burro

Recreation

Grazing

# Assessing Condition and Response

- Habitat assessment
  - Multi-scale, biologically meaningful area
  - Site scale indicator benchmarks established based upon potential (Table 2-2)
  - No single indicator—preponderance of evidence approach
- Prioritization
- Failure to meet criteria
  - Causation—determine and adjust
  - Grazing—thresholds and responses
  - WH&B—gather

# Three Instruction Memoranda:

1. Gunnison and Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Assessment Policy (HAF)
2. Setting Priorities for Review and Processing of Grazing Authorizations
3. Incorporating Thresholds and Responses into Grazing Permits/ Leases

# Flexibility and Partner Involvement

- Continue to use existing data as we transition to HAF
- Opportunities to integrate other modeling assessment approaches – e.g. STM
- Working on Pilot project to integrate rangeland health with Oregon STM
- Local conditions and multiple indicators will be considered
- BLM will continue to involve permittees and other stakeholders in developing T&Rs



# MANAGING DISCRETE USES

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Surface disturbance authorizations  
Travel and transportation

# Limiting Disturbance

- Minimize Surface Disturbance
  - Land use allocations – avoidance of impacts
  - Project screening - disturbance caps, buffers, RDFs, BMPs
  - Recommend Sagebrush Focal Areas for mineral withdrawal
- 3% Disturbance Cap – BLM and State processes

# Disturbance at the PAC and the Project Scale

1. Oil/Gas wells and development facilities
2. Coal mines
3. Wind towers
4. Solar fields
5. Geothermal development
6. Mining
7. Roads
8. Railroads
9. Power lines
10. Communication towers
11. Other vertical structures
12. Other developed ROWs



# Two Instruction Memoranda:

1. Tracking and Reporting Surface Disturbance and Reclamation
2. Oil and Gas Leasing and Development Sequential Prioritization

# Flexibility and Partner Involvement

- Collaboration with State to promote consistent tracking and tools
- BLM RMPA and State Action Plan – similar but different

# IMPLEMENTING RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

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RMPA Objectives

Assessment tools

5-year program of work



# RMP Treatment Objectives

Table 2-5  
Decadal Treatment Objectives for Greater Sage-grouse Habitat

Treatment Objective	Average Annual Acres	Average Decadal Acres
Conifer reduction	40,250	402,500
Sagebrush thinning	53,217	532,170
Invasive plant control <sup>a</sup>	12,700	127,000
Crested wheatgrass restoration	1,844	18,440

<sup>a</sup>Principally annual grasses

- Total Average Annual Acres = 108,011
- Total Average Decadal Acres = 1,080,110





# Treatment Activities for FY2016

## FY 2016 -- Sage-grouse Focused Treatment Acres

Total Treatment Acres	Conifer Thin	Annuals	Sage Brush Thin	Crested Wheatgrass
64,500	37,900	18,000	5,300	3,300



# REPORTING AND ADAPTING

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Adaptive management  
Tracking implementation  
2020 status review

# Meeting Resource Objectives

- Status and trend of land health
  - Consistent data
  - West-wide sample design
  - Reporting at multiple scales
- Adaptive Management
  - Soft triggers implemented at the project level and augment conditions of approval
  - Hard triggers implemented at the plan level and change allocation decisions

# Two Instruction Memoranda:

1. Resource Management Plan Effectiveness and Implementation (AIM)
2. Land Use Plan Adaptive Management Hard and Soft Triggers

# AIM Efforts for FY16 and Beyond

- 10 crews collected 650 AIM points
- Funding secure for FY17 work
- It's a transition that will take several years

# Adaptive Management Strategy

Annual monitoring of each unit for changes in habitat and populations

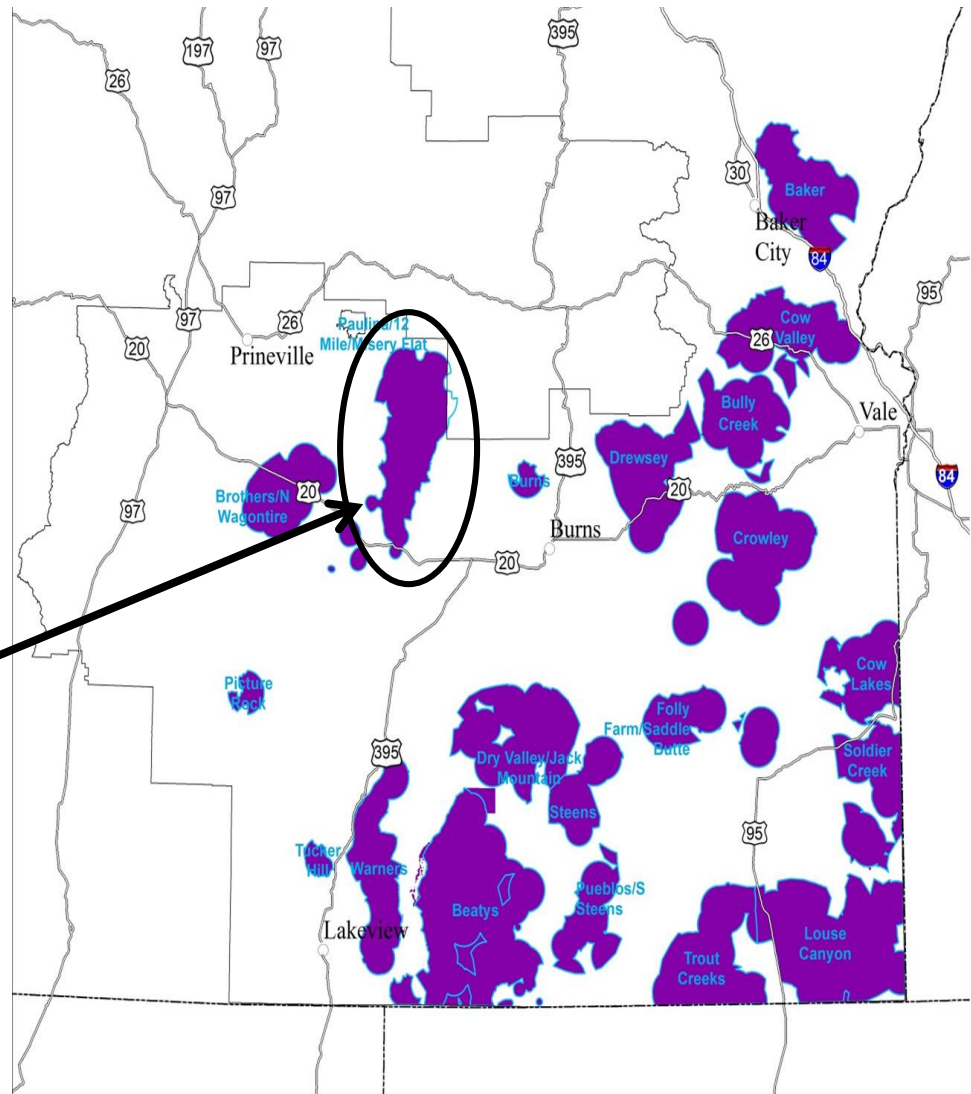


Figure 2-2: Oregon GRSG Biologically Significant Units (Oregon PACs) and Priority Habitat Management Areas

#### Legend

- Biologically Significant Unit
- Priority Habitat Management Area (PHMA)
- Planning Area Boundary
- State Boundary



0 20 40 Miles

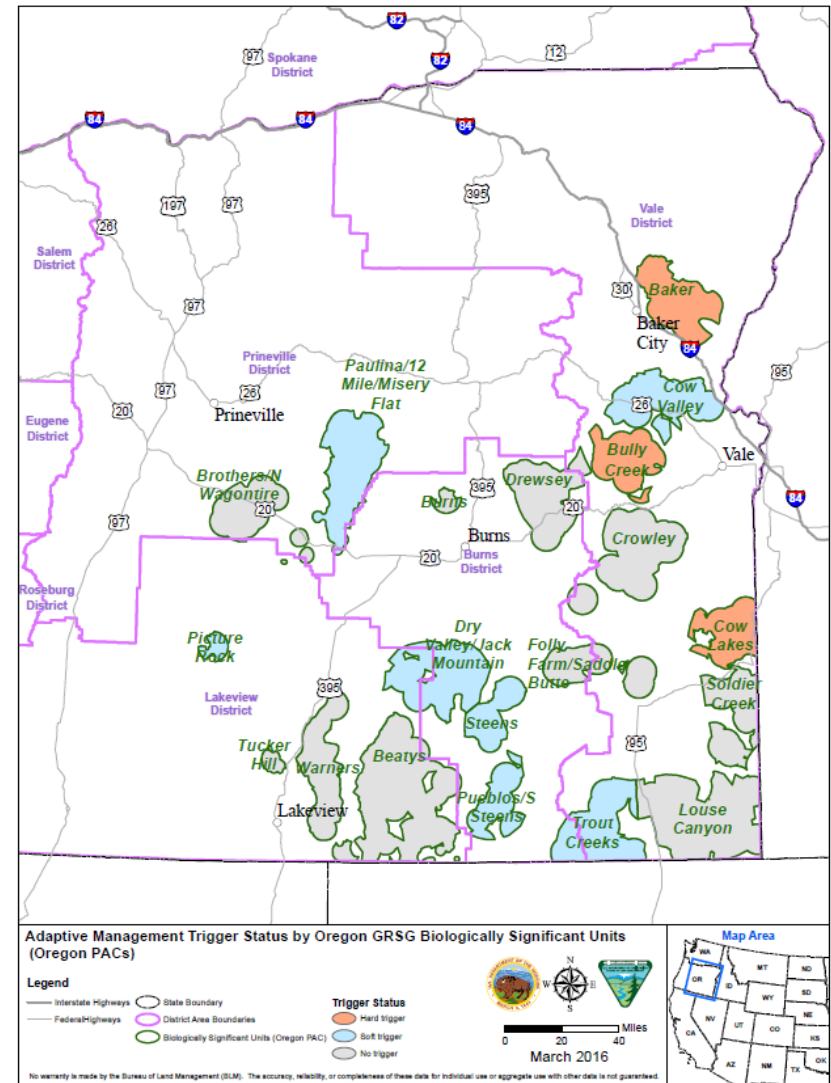
September 2015

#### Map Area



# Adaptive Management Triggers

- Thresholds set for habitat and populations in PACs
- Soft Triggers represent an intermediate threshold
- Hard Triggers are a more severe threshold
- Triggers calculated annually in coordination with state and federal agencies to validate the analyses
- 2015 triggers analyzed



# Causal Factor Analysis

- Convene a team to analyze probable causes for exceeding the threshold
- Determine which threats are most likely causing habitat and/or population declines
- Determine how the threats are operating
- Recommend actions to further mitigate or eliminate threats
- Recommend actions to promote or accelerate recovery
- Process is being tested and refined in Baker PAC



# THANK YOU

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