

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GREATER SAGE-GROUSE NORTHWEST COLORADO PLAN AMENDMENT

Forest Service Plan Components¹

Desired condition - A description of specific social, economic, and/or ecological characteristics of the plan area, or a portion of the plan area, toward which management of the land and resources should be directed. Desired conditions must be described in terms that are specific enough to allow progress toward their achievement to be determined, but do not include completion dates.

Objective - A concise, measurable, and time-specific statement of a desired rate of progress toward a desired condition or conditions. Objectives should be based on reasonably foreseeable budgets.

Standard - A mandatory constraint on project and activity decision making, established to help achieve or maintain the desired condition or conditions, to avoid or mitigate undesirable effects, or to meet applicable legal requirements.

Guideline – A constraint on project and activity decision making that allows for departure from its terms, so long as the purpose of the guideline is met. Guidelines are established to help achieve or maintain a desired condition or conditions, to avoid or mitigate undesirable effects, or to meet applicable legal requirements.

The direction in the following standards and guidelines will be applied consistent with applicable valid existing rights, laws, and regulations.

¹ Plan component definitions are based on generally accepted meanings under the 2012 Planning Rule as Amended.

Proposed Changes to 2015 Plan Components

This table shows proposed changes to current 2015 Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) direction. Text shown in **red** in the left column has been deleted. Text shown in blue and underlined in the right column that has been added or updated.

Current 2015 LRMP Direction	Proposed Action
Greater Sage-grouse General	
<p>GRSG-GEN-DC-001-Desired Condition</p> <p>The landscape for the greater sage-grouse encompasses large contiguous areas of native vegetation, approximately 6-to-62 square miles in area, to provide for multiple aspects of species life requirements. Within these landscapes, a variety of sagebrush-community compositions exist without invasive species, which have variations in subspecies composition, co-dominant vegetation, shrub cover, herbaceous cover, and stand structure to meet seasonal requirements for food, cover, and nesting for the greater sage-grouse.</p>	<p>GRSG-GEN-DC-001-Desired Condition</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-GEN-DC-002-Desired Condition</p> <p>Anthropogenic disturbance is focused in non-habitat areas outside of priority and general habitat management areas.² Disturbance in general habitat management areas is limited, and there is little to no disturbance in priority habitat management areas except for valid existing rights and existing authorized uses.</p>	<p>GRSG-GEN-DC-002-Desired Condition</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-GEN-DC-003-Desired Condition</p> <p>In greater sage-grouse management areas, including all seasonal habitat, 70% or more of lands capable of producing sagebrush have from 10 to 30% sagebrush canopy cover and less than 10% conifer canopy cover. In addition, within breeding and nesting habitat, sufficient herbaceous vegetation structure and height provides overhead and lateral concealment for nesting and early brood rearing life stages. Within brood rearing habitat, wet meadows and riparian areas sustain a rich diversity of perennial grass and forb species relative to site potential. Within winter habitat, sufficient sagebrush height and density provides food and cover for the greater sage-grouse during this seasonal period. Specific desired conditions for the greater sage-grouse based on seasonal habitat requirements are in table 1.</p>	<p>GRSG-GEN-DC-003-Desired Condition</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-GEN-ST-004-Standard</p> <p>In priority habitat management areas and sagebrush focal areas, do not issue new discretionary written authorizations unless all existing discrete anthropogenic disturbances cover less than 3% of the total greater sage-grouse habitat within the Biologically Significant Unit and the proposed project area, regardless of ownership, and the new use will not cause exceedance of the 3% cap. Discretionary activities that might result in disturbance above</p>	<p>GRSG-GEN-ST-004-Standard</p> <p>In priority habitat management areas, do not issue new discretionary written authorizations unless all existing discrete anthropogenic disturbances cover less than 3% of the total greater sage-grouse habitat within the Biologically Significant Unit and the proposed project area,</p>

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<p>3% at the Biologically Significant Unit and proposed project area would be prohibited unless approved by the forest supervisor with concurrence from the regional forester after review of new or site-specific information that indicates the project would result in a net conservation gain at the Biologically Significant Unit and proposed project area scale. Within existing designated utility corridors, the 3% disturbance cap may be exceeded at the project scale if the site specific NEPA analysis indicates that a net conservation gain to the species will be achieved. This exception is limited to projects that fulfill the use for which the corridors were designated (e.g., transmission lines, pipelines) and the designated width of a corridor will not be exceeded as a result of any project co-location. Consider the likelihood of surface disturbing activities as a result of development of valid existing rights when authorizing new projects in priority habitat management areas.</p>	<p>regardless of ownership, and the new use will not cause exceedance of the 3% cap. Discretionary activities that might result in disturbance above 3% at the Biologically Significant Unit and proposed project area would be prohibited unless approved by the forest supervisor with concurrence from the regional forester after review of new or site-specific information that indicates the project would result in a net conservation gain at the Biologically Significant Unit and proposed project area scale. Within existing designated utility corridors, the 3% disturbance cap may be exceeded at the project scale if the site specific NEPA analysis indicates that a net conservation gain to the species will be achieved. This exception is limited to projects that fulfill the use for which the corridors were designated (e.g., transmission lines, pipelines) and the designated width of a corridor will not be exceeded as a result of any project co-location. Consider the likelihood of surface disturbing activities as a result of development of valid existing rights when authorizing new projects in priority habitat management areas.</p>
<p>GRSG-GEN-ST-005-Standard</p> <p>In priority and general habitat management areas, only allow new authorized land uses if, after avoiding and minimizing impacts, any remaining residual impacts to the greater sage-grouse or its habitat are fully offset by compensatory mitigation projects that provide a net conservation gain to the species, subject to valid existing rights by applying beneficial mitigation actions. Any compensatory mitigation will be durable, timely, and in addition to what would have resulted without the compensatory mitigation as addressed in the Mitigation Framework (Appendix B).</p>	<p>GRSG-GEN-ST-005-Standard</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-GEN-ST-006-Standard</p> <p>Do not authorize new surface disturbing and disruptive activities that create noise at 10dB above ambient measured at the perimeter of an occupied lek during lekking (from March 1 to April 30) from 6 p.m. to 9 a.m. Do not include noise resulting from human activities that have been authorized and initiated within the past 10 years in the ambient baseline measurement.</p>	<p>GRSG-GEN-ST-006-Standard</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-GEN-GL-007-Guideline</p>	<p>GRSG-GEN-GL-007-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>

Current 2015 LRMP Direction	Proposed Action
During breeding and nesting (from March 1 to June 15), surface disturbing and disruptive activities to nesting birds should be avoided.	
<p>GRSG-GEN-GL-008-Guideline</p> <p>When breeding and nesting habitat overlaps with other seasonal habitats, habitat should be managed for breeding and nesting desired conditions in table 1.</p>	<p>GRSG-GEN-GL-008-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-GEN-GL-009-Guideline</p> <p>Development of tall structures within 2 miles from the perimeter of occupied leks, as determined by local conditions (e.g., vegetation or topography), with the potential to disrupt breeding or nesting by creating new perching/nesting opportunities for avian predators or by decreasing the use of an area, should be restricted within nesting habitat.</p>	<p>GRSG-GEN-GL-009-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
Adaptive Management	
<p>GRSG-AM-ST-010-Standard</p> <p>If a hard trigger is identified, immediate action is necessary to stop a severe deviation from greater sage-grouse conservation objectives. Upon reaching a hard trigger, an appropriate component of a more restrictive alternative analyzed in the EIS will be implemented. The Forest Service will immediately defer issuance of discretionary authorizations for new actions for a period of 90 days. In addition, within 14 days of a determination that a hard trigger has been tripped, the Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse Statewide Implementation Team will convene to develop an interim response strategy and initiate an assessment to determine the causal factor or factors. The hard triggers are discussed more fully in Appendix C – NWCO Adaptive Management Plan.</p>	<p>GRSG-AM-ST-010-Standard</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-AM-ST-011-Standard</p> <p>If a soft trigger is identified by the Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse Statewide Implementation Team in the decline of the greater sage-grouse population and/or its habitat, apply more conservative or restrictive implementation measures (e.g., extending seasonal restrictions for seasonal surface disturbing activities, modifying seasons of use for livestock grazing, and applying additional restrictions on discretionary activities) for the causal factor(s) identified in the decline of population and/or habitat, considering local knowledge and conditions. The soft triggers are discussed more fully in Appendix C – NWCO Adaptive Management Plan.</p>	<p>GRSG-AM-ST-011-Standard</p> <p>No Change</p>
Lands and Realty	
Special-use Authorizations (non-recreation)	
<p>GRSG-LR-SUA-O-012-Objective</p>	<p>GRSG-LR-SUA-O-012-Objective</p> <p>No Change</p>

Current 2015 LRMP Direction	Proposed Action
<p>In nesting habitats, retrofit existing tall structures (e.g., power poles, communication tower sites, etc.) with perch deterrents or other anti-perching devices within 2 years of signing the ROD.</p>	
<p>GRSG-LR-SUA-ST-013-Standard</p> <p>In priority and general habitat management areas, restrict issuance of new lands special-use authorizations that authorize infrastructure, such as high-voltage transmission lines, major pipelines, distribution lines, and communication tower sites. Exceptions may include co-location and must be limited (e.g., safety needs) and based on rationale (e.g., monitoring, modeling, or best available science) that explicitly demonstrates that adverse impacts to the greater sage-grouse will be avoided by the exception. If co-location of new infrastructure cannot be accomplished, locate it adjacent to existing infrastructure, roads, or already disturbed areas and limit disturbance to the smallest footprint or where it best limits impacts to the greater sage-grouse or its habitat. Existing authorized uses will continue to be recognized.</p>	<p>GRSG-LR-SUA-ST-013-Standard</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-LR-SUA-ST-014-Standard</p> <p>In priority and general habitat management areas, do not authorize temporary lands special-uses (i.e., facilities or activities) that result in loss of habitat or would have long-term (i.e., greater than 5 years) negative impact on the greater sage-grouse or its habitat.</p>	<p>GRSG-LR-SUA-ST-014-Standard</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-LR-SUA-ST-015-Standard</p> <p>In priority and general habitat management areas, require protective stipulations (e.g., noise, tall structure, guy wire removal, perch deterrent installation, etc.) when issuing new authorizations or during renewal, amendment, or reissuance of existing authorizations that authorize infrastructure (e.g., high-voltage transmission lines, major pipelines, roads, distribution lines, and communication tower sites).</p>	<p>GRSG-LR-SUA-ST-015-Standard</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-LR-SUA-ST-016-Standard</p> <p>In priority and general habitat management areas, locate upgrades to existing transmission lines within the existing designated corridors or rights-of-way unless an alternate route would benefit the greater sage-grouse or its habitat.</p>	<p>GRSG-LR-SUA-ST-016-Standard</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-LR-SUA-ST-017-Standard</p> <p>In priority and general habitat management areas, when a lands special-use authorization is revoked or terminated and no future use is contemplated, require the authorization holder to remove overhead lines and other surface infrastructure in compliance with 36 CFR 251.60(i).</p>	<p>GRSG-LR-SUA-ST-017-Standard</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-LR-SUA-GL-018-Guideline</p> <p>In priority habitat management areas, outside of existing designated corridors and rights-of-way, new transmission lines and pipelines should be buried to limit disturbance to the smallest</p>	<p>GRSG-LR-SUA-GL-018-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>

Current 2015 LRMP Direction	Proposed Action
<p>footprint unless explicit rationale is provided that the biological impacts to the greater sage-grouse are being avoided. If new transmission lines and pipelines are not buried, locate them adjacent to existing transmission lines and pipelines. New communication tower sites may be authorized for public safety.</p>	
<p>GRSG-LR-SUA-GL-019-Guideline</p> <p>The best available science and monitoring should be used to inform infrastructure siting in greater sage-grouse habitat.</p>	<p>GRSG-LR-SUA-GL-019-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>Land Ownership Adjustments</p>	
<p>GRSG-LR-LOA-ST-020-Standard</p> <p>In priority and general management areas, do not approve landownership adjustments, including land exchanges, unless the action results in a net conservation gain to the greater sage-grouse or it will not directly or indirectly adversely affect greater sage-grouse conservation.</p>	<p>GRSG-LR-LOA-ST-020-Standard</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-LR-LOA-GL-021-Guideline</p> <p>In priority and general habitat management areas with minority federal ownership, consider landownership adjustments to achieve a landownership pattern (e.g., consolidation, reducing fragmentation) that supports improved greater sage-grouse population trends and habitat.</p>	<p>GRSG-LR-LOA-GL-021-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>Land Withdrawal</p>	
<p>GRSG-LR-LW-GL-022-Guideline</p> <p>In priority habitat management areas, use land withdrawals as a tool, where appropriate, to withhold areas from activities that will be detrimental to the greater sage-grouse or its habitat.</p>	<p>GRSG-LR-LW-GL-022-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>Wind and Solar</p>	
<p>GRSG-WS-ST-023-Standard</p> <p>In priority habitat management areas, do not authorize new solar and wind utility-scale and/or commercial energy development except for on-site power generation associated with existing industrial infrastructure (e.g., mine sites).</p>	<p>GRSG-WS-ST-023-Standard</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-WS-GL-024-Guideline</p> <p>In general habitat management areas, new solar and wind energy utility-scale and/or commercial development should be restricted. If development cannot be restricted due to existing authorized use, adjacent developments, or split estate issues, then ensure that stipulations are incorporated into the authorization to protect the greater sage-grouse and its habitat.</p>	<p>GRSG-WS-GL-024-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>Greater Sage-grouse Habitat</p>	
<p>GRSG-GRSGH-ST-025-Standard</p>	<p>GRSG-GRSGH-ST-025-Standard</p> <p>No Change</p>

Current 2015 LRMP Direction	Proposed Action
Design habitat restoration projects to move towards desired conditions (table 1).	
<p>GRSG-GRSGH-GL-026-Guideline</p> <p>When removing conifers that are encroaching into greater sage-grouse habitat, avoid persistent woodlands (i.e., old growth relative to the site or more than 100 years old).</p>	<p>GRSG-GRSGH-GL-026-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-GRSGH-GL-027-Guideline</p> <p>In priority and general habitat management areas, actions and authorizations should include design features to limit the spread and effect of undesirable non- native plant species.</p>	<p>GRSG-GRSGH-GL-027-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-GRSGH-GL-028-Guideline</p> <p>To facilitate safe and effective fire management actions, in priority and general habitat management areas, fuel treatments in high-risk areas (i.e., areas likely to experience wildfire at an intensity level that might result in movement away from greater sage- grouse desired conditions in table 1) should be designed to reduce the spread and/or intensity of wildfire or the susceptibility of greater sage-grouse attributes to move away from desired conditions (table 1).</p>	<p>GRSG-GRSGH-GL-028-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-GRSGH-GL-029-Guideline</p> <p>In priority and general habitat management areas, native plant species should be used when possible to maintain, restore, or enhance desired conditions (table 1).</p>	<p>GRSG-GRSGH-GL-029-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-GRSGH-GL-030-Guideline</p> <p>In priority habitat management areas, vegetation treatment projects should only be conducted if they maintain, restore, or enhance desired conditions (table 1).</p>	<p>GRSG-GRSGH-GL-030-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
Livestock Grazing	
<p>GRSG-LG-DC-031-Desired Condition</p> <p>In priority and general habitat management areas and within lek buffers, livestock grazing is managed to maintain or move towards desired conditions (table 1).</p>	<p>GRSG-LG-DC-031-Desired Condition</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-LG-ST-032-Standard</p> <p>In priority habitat management areas, do not approve construction of water developments unless beneficial to greater sage-grouse habitat.</p>	<p>GRSG-LG-ST-032-Standard</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-LG-GL-033-Guideline</p> <p>Grazing guidelines should be applied in each of the seasonal habitats in table 2. If values in table 2 guidelines cannot be achieved based upon a site-specific analysis using Ecological Site Descriptions, long-term ecological site potential analysis, or other similar analysis, adjust grazing management to move towards</p>	<p>GRSG-LG-GL-033-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>

Current 2015 LRMP Direction	Proposed Action
desired habitat conditions in table 1 consistent with the ecological site potential. Do not use drought and degraded habitat condition to adjust values. Grazing guidelines in table 2 would not apply to isolated parcels of National Forest System lands that have less than 200 acres of greater sage-grouse habitat.	
<p>GRSG-LG-GL-034-Guideline</p> <p>In priority and general habitat management areas, when grazing permits are waived without preference or obtained through permit cancellation, consider the agency’s full range of administrative authorities for future allotment management, including but not limited to allotment closure, vacancy status for resource protection, establishment of forage reserve, re-stocking, or livestock conversion as management options to maintain or achieve desired habitat conditions (table 1).</p>	<p>GRSG-LG-GL-034-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-LG-GL-035-Guideline</p> <p>Bedding sheep and locating camps within 1.2 miles from the perimeter of a lek during lekking (from March 1 to April 30) should be restricted.</p>	<p>GRSG-LG-GL-035-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-LG-GL-036-Guideline</p> <p>During breeding and nesting season (from March 1 to June 15), trailing livestock through breeding and nesting habitat should be minimized. Specific routes should be identified; existing trails should be used; and stopovers on active leks should be avoided.</p>	<p>GRSG-LG-GL-036-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-LG-GL-037-Guideline</p> <p>Fences should not be constructed or reconstructed within 1.2 miles from the perimeter of occupied leks unless the collision risk can be mitigated through design features or markings (e.g., mark, laydown fences, or other design features).</p>	<p>GRSG-LG-GL-037-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-LG-GL-038-Guideline</p> <p>New permanent livestock facilities (e.g., windmills, water tanks, corrals, etc.) should not be constructed within 1.2 miles from the perimeter of occupied leks.</p>	<p>GRSG-LG-GL-038-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>Fire Management</p>	
<p>GRSG-FM-DC-039-Desired Condition</p> <p>In priority and general habitat management areas, protect sagebrush habitat from loss due to unwanted wildfires or damages resulting from management- related activities while using agency risk management protocols to manage for firefighter and public safety and other high priority values. In all fire response, first priority is the management of risk to firefighters and the public. Greater sage-grouse habitat will be prioritized as a high value resource along with other high value resources and assets.</p>	<p>GRSG-FM-DC-039-Desired Condition</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-FM-ST-040-Standard</p>	<p>GRSG-FM-ST-040-Standard</p>

Current 2015 LRMP Direction	Proposed Action
<p>In priority and general habitat management areas, do not use prescribed fire in 12-inch or less precipitation zones unless necessary to facilitate restoration of greater sage-grouse habitat consistent with desired conditions in table 1 or for pile burning.</p>	<p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-FM-ST-041-Standard</p> <p>In priority and general habitat management areas, if it is necessary to use prescribed fire for restoration of greater sage-grouse habitat consistent with desired conditions in table 1, the associated National Environmental Policy Act analysis must identify how the project would move towards greater sage-grouse desired conditions; why alternative techniques were not selected; and how potential threats to greater sage-grouse habitat would be minimized.</p>	<p>GRSG-FM-ST-041-Standard</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-FM-GL-042-Guideline</p> <p>In wintering or breeding and nesting habitat, sagebrush removal or manipulation, including prescribed fire, should be restricted unless the removal strategically reduces the potential impacts from wildfire or supports the attainment of desired conditions.</p>	<p>GRSG-FM-GL-042-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-FM-GL-043-Guideline</p> <p>In planned fuels management activities or part of an overall vegetative management strategy to mitigate the impacts of wildfire in priority and general habitat management areas and sagebrush focal areas, when reseeding in fuel breaks, fire-resistant native plant species should be used if available, or consider using fire resistance non-native species if analysis and/or best available science demonstrates that non-native plants will not degrade greater sage-grouse habitat in the long-term.</p>	<p>GRSG-FM-GL-043-Guideline</p> <p>In planned fuels management activities or part of an overall vegetative management strategy to mitigate the impacts of wildfire in priority and general habitat management areas, when reseeding in fuel breaks, fire-resistant native plant species should be used if available, or consider using fire resistance non-native species if analysis and/or best available science demonstrates that non-native plants will not degrade greater sage-grouse habitat in the long-term.</p>
<p>GRSG-FM-GL-044-Guideline</p> <p>In priority and general habitat management areas, fuel treatments should be designed to maintain, restore, or enhance greater sage-grouse habitat.</p>	<p>GRSG-FM-GL-044-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-FM-GL-045-Guideline</p> <p>Locating temporary wildfire suppression facilities (e.g., incident command posts, spike camps, helibases, mobile retardant plants) in priority and general habitat management areas and sagebrush focal areas should be avoided. When needed to best provide for firefighter or public safety or to minimize fire size in sage grouse habitat, impacts to the greater sage-grouse should be considered and removal of sagebrush should be limited.</p>	<p>GRSG-FM-GL-045-Guideline</p> <p>Locating temporary wildfire suppression facilities (e.g., incident command posts, spike camps, helibases, mobile retardant plants) in priority and general habitat management areas should be avoided. When needed to best provide for firefighter or public safety or to minimize fire size in sage grouse habitat, impacts to the greater sage-grouse should be</p>

Current 2015 LRMP Direction	Proposed Action
	considered and removal of sagebrush should be limited.
<p>GRSG-FM-GL-046-Guideline</p> <p>In priority and general habitat management areas, cross-country vehicle travel during fire operations should be restricted. When needed to best provide for firefighter or public safety or to minimize fire size in greater sage-grouse habitat, impacts to the greater sage-grouse should be considered and removal of sagebrush should be limited.</p>	<p>GRSG-FM-GL-046-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-FM-GL-047-Guideline</p> <p>In priority and general habitat management areas, use fire management tactics and strategies that seek to minimize loss of existing sagebrush habitat. The safest and most practical means to do so will be determined by fireline leadership and incident commanders.</p>	<p>GRSG-FM-GL-047-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-FM-GL-048-Guideline</p> <p>In priority and general habitat management areas, prescribed fire prescriptions should minimize undesirable effects on vegetation and/or soils (e.g., minimize mortality of desirable perennial plant species and reduce risk of hydrophobicity).</p>	<p>GRSG-FM-GL-048-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-FM-GL-049-Guideline</p> <p>In priority and general habitat management areas, roads and natural fuel breaks should be incorporated into planned fuel break design to improve effectiveness and minimize loss of existing sagebrush habitat.</p>	<p>GRSG-FM-GL-049-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-FM-GL-050-Guideline</p> <p>In priority and general habitat management areas, where practical and available, all fire-associated vehicles and equipment should be inspected and cleaned using standardized protocols and procedures and approved vehicle/equipment decontamination systems before entering and exiting the area beyond initial attack activities to minimize the introduction of invasive annual grasses and other invasive plant species and noxious weeds.</p>	<p>GRSG-FM-GL-050-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-FM-GL-051-Guideline</p> <p>Unit-specific greater sage-grouse fire management-related information should be added to wildland fire decision support systems (currently, the Wildland Fire Decision Support System); local operating plans and resource advisor plans to be used during fire situations to inform management decision; and aid in development of strategies and tactics for resource prioritization.</p>	<p>GRSG-FM-GL-051-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-FM-GL-052-Guideline</p>	<p>GRSG-FM-GL-052-Guideline</p>

Current 2015 LRMP Direction	Proposed Action
<p>Localized maps of priority and general habitat management areas and sagebrush focal areas should be made available to fireline, dispatch, and fire support personnel.</p>	<p>Localized maps of priority and general habitat management areas should be made available to fireline, dispatch, and fire support personnel.</p>
<p>GRSG-FM-GL-053-Guideline</p> <p>In or near priority and general habitat management areas, a greater sage-grouse resource advisor should be assigned to all extended attack fires.</p>	<p>GRSG-FM-GL-053-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-FM-GL-054-Guideline</p> <p>On critical fire weather days, protection of greater sage-grouse habitat should receive high consideration, along with other high values, for positioning of resources.</p>	<p>GRSG-FM-GL-054-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-FM-GL-055-Guideline</p> <p>Line officers should be involved in setting pre-season wildfire response priorities and prioritizing protection of priority and general habitat management areas and sagebrush focal areas, along with other high values. During periods of multiple fires or limited resource availability fire management organizational structure (local, regional, national) will prioritize fires and allocation of resources in which greater sage-grouse habitat is a consideration along with other high values.</p>	<p>GRSG-FM-GL-055-Guideline</p> <p>Line officers should be involved in setting pre-season wildfire response priorities and prioritizing protection of priority and general habitat management areas, along with other high values. During periods of multiple fires or limited resource availability fire management organizational structure (local, regional, national) will prioritize fires and allocation of resources in which greater sage-grouse habitat is a consideration along with other high values.</p>
<p>GRSG-FM-GL-056-Guideline</p> <p>In priority and general habitat management areas, consider using fire retardant and mechanized equipment only if it is likely to result in minimizing burned acreage, preventing the loss of other high value resources, or increasing the effectiveness of other tactical strategies. Agency administrators, their designee, or fireline leadership should consider fire suppression effects while determining suppression strategy and tactics; the use of fire retardant and mechanized equipment may be approved by agency administrators, their designee, or fireline leadership.</p>	<p>GRSG-FM-GL-056-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-FM-GL-057-Guideline</p> <p>In priority and general habitat management areas, to minimize sagebrush habitat loss, consider using the full range of suppression techniques to protect unburned islands, doglegs, and other greater sage-grouse habitat features that may exist within the perimeter of wildfires. These suppression objectives and activities should be prioritized against other wildland fire suppression activities and priorities.</p>	<p>GRSG-FM-GL-057-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>Recreation</p>	

Current 2015 LRMP Direction	Proposed Action
<p>GRSG-R-DC-058-Desired Condition</p> <p>In priority habitat management areas, recreation activities are balanced with the ability of the land to support them while meeting greater sage-grouse seasonal habitat desired conditions (table 1) and creating minimal user conflicts.</p>	<p>GRSG-R-DC-058-Desired Condition</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-R-ST-059-Standard</p> <p>In priority and general habitat management areas, do not authorize temporary recreation uses (i.e., facilities or activities) that result in loss of habitat or would have long-term (i.e., greater than 5 years) negative impacts on greater sage-grouse or its habitat.</p>	<p>GRSG-R-ST-059-Standard</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-R-GL-060-Guideline</p> <p>In priority and general habitat management areas, terms and conditions that protect and/or restore greater sage-grouse habitat within the permit area should be included in new recreation special-use authorizations. During renewal, amendment, or reauthorization, terms and conditions in existing permits and operating plans should be modified to protect and/or restore greater sage-grouse habitat.</p>	<p>GRSG-R-GL-060-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-R-GL-061-Guideline</p> <p>In priority habitat management areas, new recreational facilities or expansion of existing recreational facilities (e.g., roads, trails, campgrounds), including special-use authorizations for facilities and activities, should not be approved unless the development results in a net conservation gain to the greater sage-grouse or its habitat or the development is required for visitor safety.</p>	<p>GRSG-R-GL-061-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>Roads/Transportation</p>	
<p>GRSG-RT-DC-062-Desired Condition</p> <p>In priority and general habitat management areas, within the forest transportation system and on roads and trails authorized under a special-use authorization, the greater sage-grouse experience minimal disturbance during breeding and nesting (from March 1 to June 15) and wintering (from November 1 to February 28) periods.</p>	<p>GRSG-RT-DC-062-Desired Condition</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-RT-ST-063-Standard</p> <p>In priority and general habitat management areas, do not conduct or allow new road or trail construction (does not apply to realignments for resource protection) except when necessary for administrative access to existing and authorized uses, public safety, or to access valid existing rights. If necessary to construct new roads and trails for one of these purposes, construct them to the minimum standard, length, and number and avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts.</p>	<p>GRSG-RT-ST-063-Standard</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-RT-ST-064-Standard</p>	<p>GRSG-RT-ST-064-Standard</p> <p>No Change</p>

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Do not conduct or allow road and trail maintenance activities within 2 miles from the perimeter of active leks during lekking (from March 1 to April 30) from 6 p.m. to 9 a.m.	
<p>GRSG-RT-ST-065-Standard</p> <p>In priority habitat management areas, prohibit public access on temporary energy development roads.</p>	<p>GRSG-RT-ST-065-Standard</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-RT-GL-066-Guideline</p> <p>In priority habitat management areas, new roads and road realignments should be designed and administered to reduce collisions with the greater sage- grouse.</p>	<p>GRSG-RT-GL-066-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-RT-GL-067-Guideline</p> <p>In priority habitat management areas, road construction within riparian areas and mesic meadows should be restricted. If not possible to restrict construction within riparian areas and mesic meadows, roads should be designed and constructed at right angles to ephemeral drainages and stream crossings unless topography prevents doing so.</p>	<p>GRSG-RT-GL-067-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-RT-GL-068-Guideline</p> <p>In priority and general habitat management areas, when decommissioning roads and unauthorized routes, restoration activity should be designed to move habitat towards desired conditions (table 1).</p>	<p>GRSG-RT-GL-068-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-RT-GL-069-Guideline</p> <p>In priority and general habitat management areas, dust abatement terms and conditions should be included in road-use authorizations when dust has the potential to affect the greater sage-grouse.</p>	<p>GRSG-RT-GL-069-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-RT-GL-070-Guideline</p> <p>In priority and general habitat management areas, road and road-way maintenance activities should be designed and implemented to reduce the risk of vehicle- or human-caused wildfires and the spread of invasive plants. Such activities include but are not limited to the removal or mowing of vegetation a car-width off the edge of roads; use of weed-free earth-moving equipment, gravel, fill, or other materials; and blading or pulling roadsides and ditches that are infested with noxious weeds only if required for public safety or protection of the roadway.</p>	<p>GRSG-RT-GL-070-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>Minerals</p>	
<p>Fluid Minerals – Unleased</p>	
<p>GRSG-M-FMUL-ST-071-Standard</p> <p>In priority habitat management areas, any new oil and gas leases must include a No Surface Occupancy stipulation. There will be no waivers or modifications. An exception could be granted by the authorized officer with unanimous concurrence from a team of</p>	<p>GRSG-M-FMUL-ST-071-Standard</p> <p>No Change</p>

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agency greater sage-grouse experts from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Forest Service, and the state wildlife agency if:	
<p>GRSG-M-FMUL-ST-072-Standard</p> <p>In general habitat management areas, any new leases must include appropriate Controlled Surface Use and Timing Limitation stipulations to protect the greater sage-grouse and its habitat.</p>	<p>GRSG-M-FMUL-ST-072-Standard</p> <p>No Change</p>
Fluid Minerals – Leased	
<p>GRSG-M-FML-ST-073-Standard</p> <p>In priority habitat management areas, when approving the Surface Use Plan of Operation portion of the Application for Permit to Drill on existing leases that are not yet developed, require that leaseholders avoid and minimize surface disturbing and disruptive activities consistent with the rights granted in the lease.</p>	<p>GRSG-M-FML-ST-073-Standard</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-M-FML-ST-074-Standard</p> <p>In priority habitat management areas, when facilities are no longer needed or leases are relinquished, require reclamation plans to include terms and conditions to restore habitat to desired conditions as described in table 1.</p>	<p>GRSG-M-FML-ST-074-Standard</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-M-FML-ST-075-Standard</p> <p>In general habitat management areas, authorize new transmission line corridors, transmission line right-of-ways, transmission line construction, or transmission line-facility construction associated with fluid mineral leases with stipulations necessary to protect the greater sage-grouse and its habitat, consistent with the terms and conditions of the permit.</p>	<p>GRSG-M-FML-ST-075-Standard</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-M-FML-ST-076-Standard</p> <p>Locate compressor stations on portions of a lease that are non-habitat and are not used by the greater sage-grouse, and if there would be no direct, indirect, or cumulative effects on the greater sage-grouse or its habitat. If this is not possible, work with the operator to use mufflers, sound insulation, or other features to reduce noise, consistent with GRSG-GEN-ST-006-Standard.</p>	<p>GRSG-M-FML-ST-076-Standard</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-M-FML-ST-077-Standard</p> <p>In priority and general habitat management areas, when authorizing development of fluid mineral resources, work with the operator to minimize impacts to the greater sage-grouse and its habitat, such as locating facilities in non-habitat areas first and then in the least suitable habitat.</p>	<p>GRSG-M-FML-ST-077-Standard</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-M-FML-GL-078-Guideline</p> <p>In priority and general habitat management areas, operators should be encouraged to reduce disturbance to greater sage-grouse habitat. At the time of approval of the Surface Use Plan of</p>	<p>GRSG-M-FML-GL-078-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>

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<p>Operation portion of the Application for Permit to Drill, terms and conditions should be included to reduce disturbance to greater sage-grouse habitat, where appropriate and feasible and consistent with the rights granted to the lessee.</p>	
<p>GRSG-M-FML-GL-079-Guideline</p> <p>On existing federal leases in priority habitat management areas, when surface occupancy cannot be restricted due to valid existing rights or development requirements, disturbance and surface occupancy should be limited to areas least harmful to the greater sage-grouse based on vegetation, topography, or other habitat features.</p>	<p>GRSG-M-FML-GL-079-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-M-FML-GL-080-Guideline</p> <p>In priority and general habitat management areas, where the federal government owns the surface and the mineral estate is in non-federal ownership, coordinate with the mineral estate owner/lessee to apply appropriate stipulations, conditions of approval, conservation measures, and required design features to the appropriate surface management instruments to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities.</p>	<p>GRSG-M-FML-GL-080-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
Fluid Minerals – Operations	
<p>GRSG-M-FMO-ST-081-Standard</p> <p>In priority habitat management areas, do not authorize employee camps.</p>	<p>GRSG-M-FMO-ST-081-Standard</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-M-FMO-ST-082-Standard</p> <p>In priority habitat management areas, when feasible, do not locate tanks or other structures that may be used as raptor perches. If this is not feasible, use perch deterrents.</p>	<p>GRSG-M-FMO-ST-082-Standard</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-M-FMO-GL-083-Guideline</p> <p>In priority habitat management areas, closed-loop systems should be used for drilling operations with no reserve pits, where feasible.</p>	<p>GRSG-M-FMO-GL-083-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-M-FMO-GL-084-Guideline</p> <p>In priority and general habitat management areas, during drilling operations, soil compaction should be minimized and soil structure should be maintained using the best available techniques to improve vegetation reestablishment.</p>	<p>GRSG-M-FMO-GL-084-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-M-FMO-GL-085-Guideline</p> <p>In priority and general habitat management areas, dams, impoundments and ponds for mineral development should be constructed to reduce potential for West Nile virus. Examples of methods to accomplish this include the following:</p>	<p>GRSG-M-FMO-GL-085-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-M-FMO-GL-086-Guideline</p>	<p>GRSG-M-FMO-GL-086-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>

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<p>In priority and general habitat management areas, to keep habitat disturbance at a minimum a phased development approach should be applied to fluid mineral operations, wherever possible, consistent with the rights granted under the lease. Disturbed areas should be reclaimed as soon as they are no longer needed for mineral operations.</p>	
Coal Mines – Unleased	
<p>GRSG-M-CMUL-ST-087-Standard When consenting to new underground coal leases, include a lease stipulation prohibiting the location of surface facilities in priority habitat management areas.</p>	<p>GRSG-M-CMUL-ST-087-Standard No Change</p>
Coal Mines – Leased	
<p>GRSG-M-CML-ST-088-Standard In priority habitat management areas, do not authorize new appurtenant surface facilities related to existing underground mines unless no technical feasible alternative exists. If new appurtenant surface facilities associated with existing mine leases cannot be located outside of priority habitat management areas, locate them with any existing disturbed areas, if possible. If location within an existing disturbed area is not possible, then construct new facilities to minimize disturbed areas while meeting mine safety standards and requirements, as identified by the Mine Safety and Health Administration mine-plan approval process and locate the facilities in an area least harmful to greater sage-grouse habitat based on vegetation, topography, or other habitat features.</p>	<p>GRSG-M-CML-ST-088-Standard No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-M-CML-GL-089-Guideline In priority and general habitat management areas, when coal leases are subject to readjustment, additional requirements should be included in the readjusted lease to conserve, enhance, and restore the greater sage-grouse and its habitat for long-term viability.</p>	<p>GRSG-M-CML-GL-089-Guideline No Change</p>
Locatable Minerals	
<p>GRSG-M-LM-ST-090-Standard In priority habitat management areas, only approve Plans of Operation if they include mitigation to protect the greater sage-grouse and its habitat, consistent with the rights of the mining claimant as granted by the General Mining Act of 1872, as amended.</p>	<p>GRSG-M-LM-ST-090-Standard No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-M-LM-GL-091-Guideline In priority and general habitat management areas, to keep habitat disturbance at a minimum, a phased development approach should be applied to operations consistent with the rights granted under the General Mining Act of 1872, as amended. Disturbed areas should be reclaimed as soon as they are no longer needed for mineral operations.</p>	<p>GRSG-M-LM-GL-091-Guideline No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-M-LM-GL-092-Guideline</p>	<p>GRSG-M-LM-GL-092-Guideline</p>

Current 2015 LRMP Direction	Proposed Action
<p>In priority and general habitat management areas, abandoned mine sites should be closed or mitigated to reduce predation of the greater sage-grouse by eliminating tall structures that could provide nesting opportunities and perching sites for predators.</p>	<p>No Change</p>
<p>Non-energy Leasable Minerals</p>	
<p>GRSG-M-NEL-GL-093-Guideline</p> <p>In priority and general habitat management areas, at the time of issuance of prospecting permits, exploration licenses and leases, or readjustment of leases, the Forest Service should provide recommendations to the BLM for the protection of the greater sage-grouse and its habitat.</p>	<p>GRSG-M-NEL-GL-093-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-M-NEL-GL-094-Guideline</p> <p>In priority and general habitat, the Forest Service should recommend to the BLM that expansion or readjustment of existing leases avoid, minimize, or mitigate the effects to the greater sage-grouse and its habitat.</p>	<p>GRSG-M-NEL-GL-094-Guideline</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>Mineral Materials</p>	
<p>GRSG-M-MM-ST-095-Standard</p> <p>In priority habitat management areas, do not authorize new mineral material disposal or development.</p>	<p>GRSG-M-MM-ST-095-Standard</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-M-MM-ST-096-Standard</p> <p>In priority habitat management areas, free-use mineral material collection permits may be issued and expansion of existing active pits may be allowed, except from March 1 to April 30 between 6 p.m. and 9 a.m. within 2 miles from the perimeter of occupied leks, within the Biologically Significant Unit and proposed project area if doing so does not exceed the disturbance cap.</p>	<p>GRSG-M-MM-ST-096-Standard</p> <p>No Change</p>
<p>GRSG-M-MM-ST-097-Standard</p> <p>In priority and general habitat management areas, any permit for existing mineral material operations must include appropriate requirements for operation and reclamation of the site to maintain, restore, or enhance desired habitat conditions (table 1).</p>	<p>GRSG-M-MM-ST-097-Standard</p> <p>No Change</p>