



U.S.D.A FOREST SERVICE & BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT UPDATE – July 2014



SUBJECT: Interagency Sage-Grouse and Sagebrush Management

Issue: Interagency Sage-Grouse and Sagebrush Planning and Conservation.

Key Points:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced its National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy to conserve the Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat on July 2011, and four months later the U.S. Forest Service (FS) joined the effort for FS-administered lands.

The BLM and FS, who administer approximately 59% of all remaining occupied Sage-Grouse habitats, are implementing a large-scale planning strategy to evaluate and improve the adequacy of BLM Regional Management Plans (RMPs) and FS Forest Plans to conserve and restore the Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat on their lands. This strategy, which affects 68 BLM land-use planning units and 20 FS Forest Plans, includes efforts to revise and amend RMPs and Forest Plans, where necessary, throughout the range of the Greater Sage-Grouse.

Under the strategy, anticipated to be complete in 2014, the BLM issued national policy direction to guide interim actions, future planning, and established regional interagency teams to enhance cooperation and coordination and to ensure consistency. Both the BLM and the FS will embed regulatory mechanisms into RMPs and Forest Plans through plan maintenance, amendment, or revision at the state or multistate level. Conservation measures, identified during the planning effort will be designed to be science-based, consistent across BLM and FS lands, and will provide meaningful conservation outcomes. The entire text of the [MOU](#) is available online at:

<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/Partnerships/BLM%20EO13186MOU.pdf>

- A scoping report and links to all comments are posted on [BLM's national Sage-Grouse website](#) (http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/sage_grouse_home2.html) which also provides links to plans that are available for public comment.
- Cumulative Effects and Disturbance and Monitoring teams have been developed to facilitate consistency in analyses during the planning process.
- All draft plans have been released to the public.
- The FS, BLM, and FWS have been and continue to coordinate with state governments that are pursuing a state Sage-Grouse plan.

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