From:	Lyons, James
To:	Sarah Greenberger; Michael Bean; Steven Ellis; Edwin Roberson; Stephanie Carman; Chris Iverson; Noreen Walsh; Robert Dreher
Cc:	Neil Kornze; Dan Ashe
Subject:	Re: Edits to power point
Date:	Thursday, January 15, 2015 5:16:17 PM
Attachments:	Task Force Rollout Jan 2015 1.15_JRL edits.pptx

Attached

Some clarifications. Think it important to highlight Strongholds, PHMA and GHMA as components of a conservation strategy. While Strongholds are MAINLY, but not all, PHMA, it is an important component of the strategy that should be highlighted -- certainly important to FWS.

Also, added a slide on "monitoring and evaluation". Don't think this is controversial, but an important part of the strategy and means to ensure we achieve our conservation goals.

Just saw last draft from Steph. Would still recommend changes to highlight value of strongholds, clarify what "improve habitat" means(?), modifications to fire slides and add the slide on monitoring and evaluation for reasons above.

Sorry but my original attachment wouldn't transmit from the plan. My proposed language changes in the attached are obviously in red.

Please include these in the revised powerpoint.

Thank you. Nice job Ed and Steph.

Jim

On Thu, Jan 15, 2015 at 6:42 PM, Lyons, James <james_lyons@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

> Attached
>
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> Jim
>
> --
> Jim Lyons
> ***Deputy Assistant Secretary***
> ***Land and Minerals Management***
> ***Jim_Lyons@ios.doi.gov***
> **202-208-4318 (direct)**

202-815-4412 (mobile)

--

Jim Lyons
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management
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Status Update on BLM Land Use Plans for Greater Sage-Grouse

January 16, 2014
Western Governors Association

BLM's Greater Sage-Grouse Planning and Conservation Strategy

Where we are following:

- October Task Force Meeting
- Individual State Meetings
- New Information
  - USFWS Highly Important Landscapes
  - USGS Buffer Report

➢ Direction for BLM Proposed Plans

BLM's Greater Sage-Grouse Planning and Conservation Strategy

2 Regions

Great Basin
Rocky Mountain

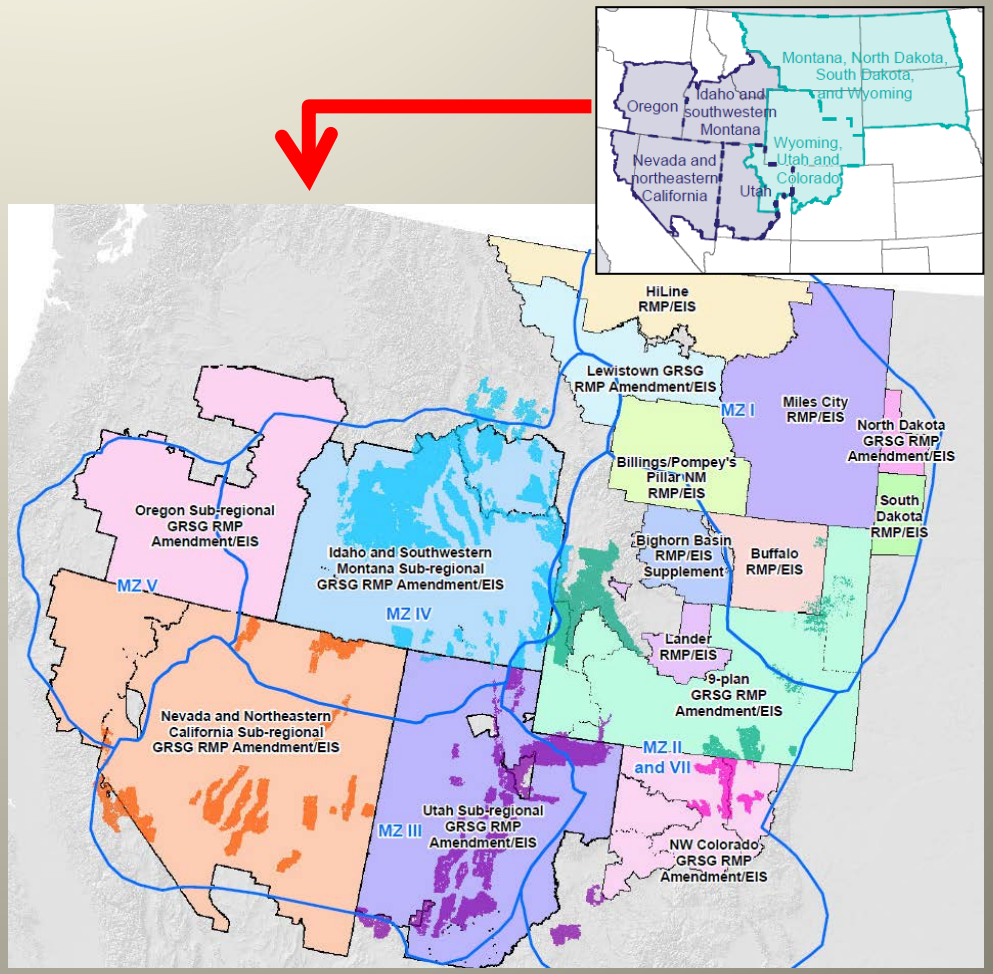
15 Sub-regions/EISs

<u>Great Basin (All Amendments)</u>
Oregon, Nevada/NE California, Idaho/SW Montana, and Utah

<u>Rocky Mountain (Revisions & Amendments)</u>
NW Colorado, WY 9 Plan, Lander Revision (WY), Bighorn Basin Revision (WY), Buffalo Revision (WY), Billings/Pompey's Pillar NM Revision (MT), Lewistown Amendment (MT), HiLine Revision (MT), Miles City Revision (MT), South Dakota Revision, North Dakota Amendment

98 LUPs Being Amended (includes BLM and FS)

Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) Management Zones outlined in Blue



Status of Land Use Plans

Milestone	Date
✓ All draft EISs published/public comment periods closed	Spring 2014
✓ Administrative draft proposed plans in development	June 2014
✓ Draft plan data converted to geospatial displays in order to permit review of conservation strategies in response to identified threats for each PAC/population	July 2014
✓ BLM/FS planning teams and FWS review plans for adequacy and cumulative conservation response to threats in each PAC	Aug/Sept 2014
✓ States join BLM/FS planning teams and FWS to review plans and combined conservation effort in response to PAC threats	October 2014
Land use plans revised in response to plan reviews	**Winter 2014/15**
Proposed land use plan revisions / final EISs published. Protest resolution and governor consistency reviews	**Late Spring 2015**
Records of Decision are signed	**Summer 2015**

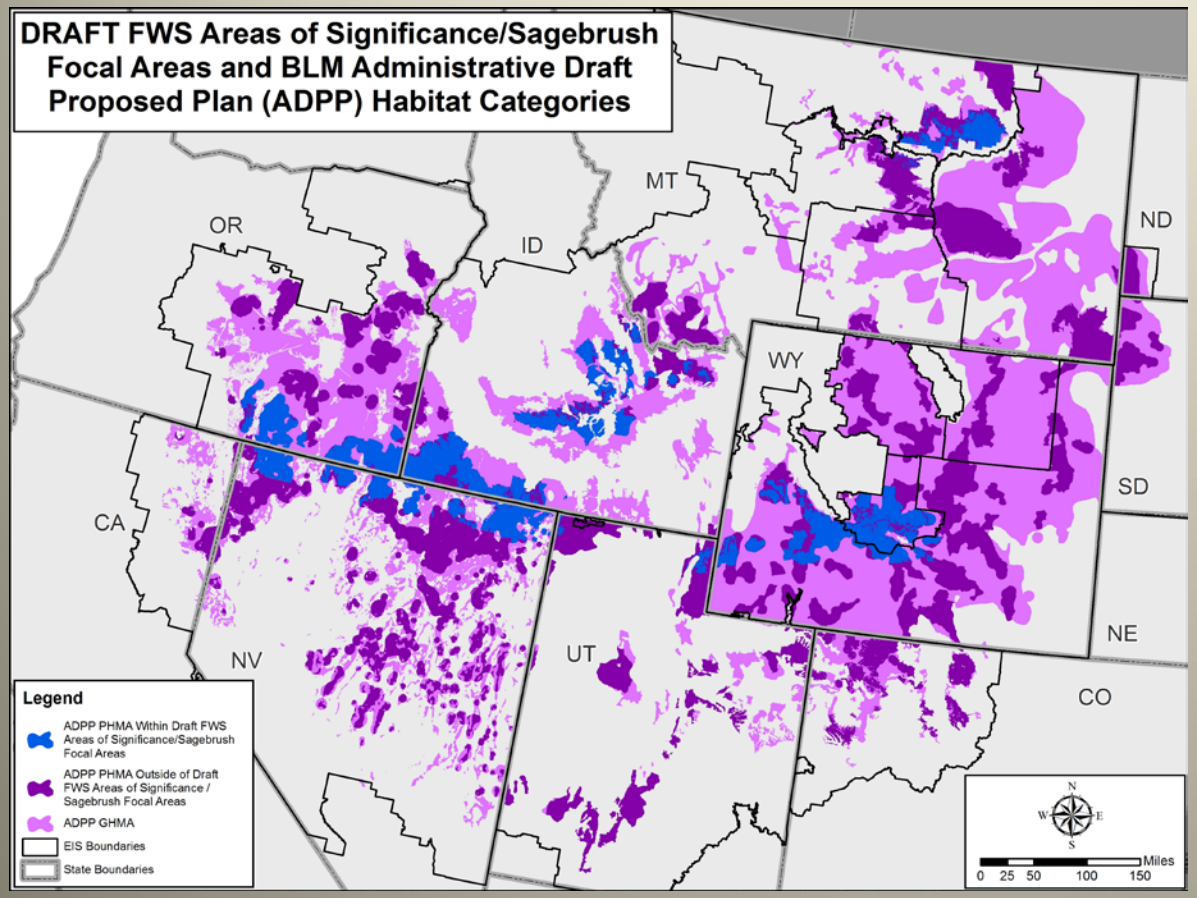
Components of a Rangewide Strategy for the Conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse and the Continued Economic Development in Western Sagebrush Landscapes

- Advance the conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse and sagebrush ecosystem health
- Address the specific threats to remaining Greater Sage-Grouse populations identified in the Conservation Objectives Team (COT) report
- Continue to manage public lands for multiple-use and sustained yield of all the goods and services essential to the economic well-being of western states and communities

Key Elements

- **Limit or eliminate new surface disturbance in sage-grouse priority habitat and minimize additional disturbance in general habitat**
- **Improve Habitat Condition [*what does this mean?]***
- **Reduce the threat of rangeland fire to GRSG in the Great Basin by placing added priority on the prevention, suppression and restoration of sagebrush landscapes threatened by rangeland fire through improved federal-state-local collaboration and coordination**

The BLM Multi-Layered Approach



Three key components to create a framework to conserve sage-grouse and their habitat:

<u>16 million acres of Sagebrush Focal Areas</u>

- NSO without exceptions and proposed withdrawal from mineral development

<u>43 million acres of PHMA</u>

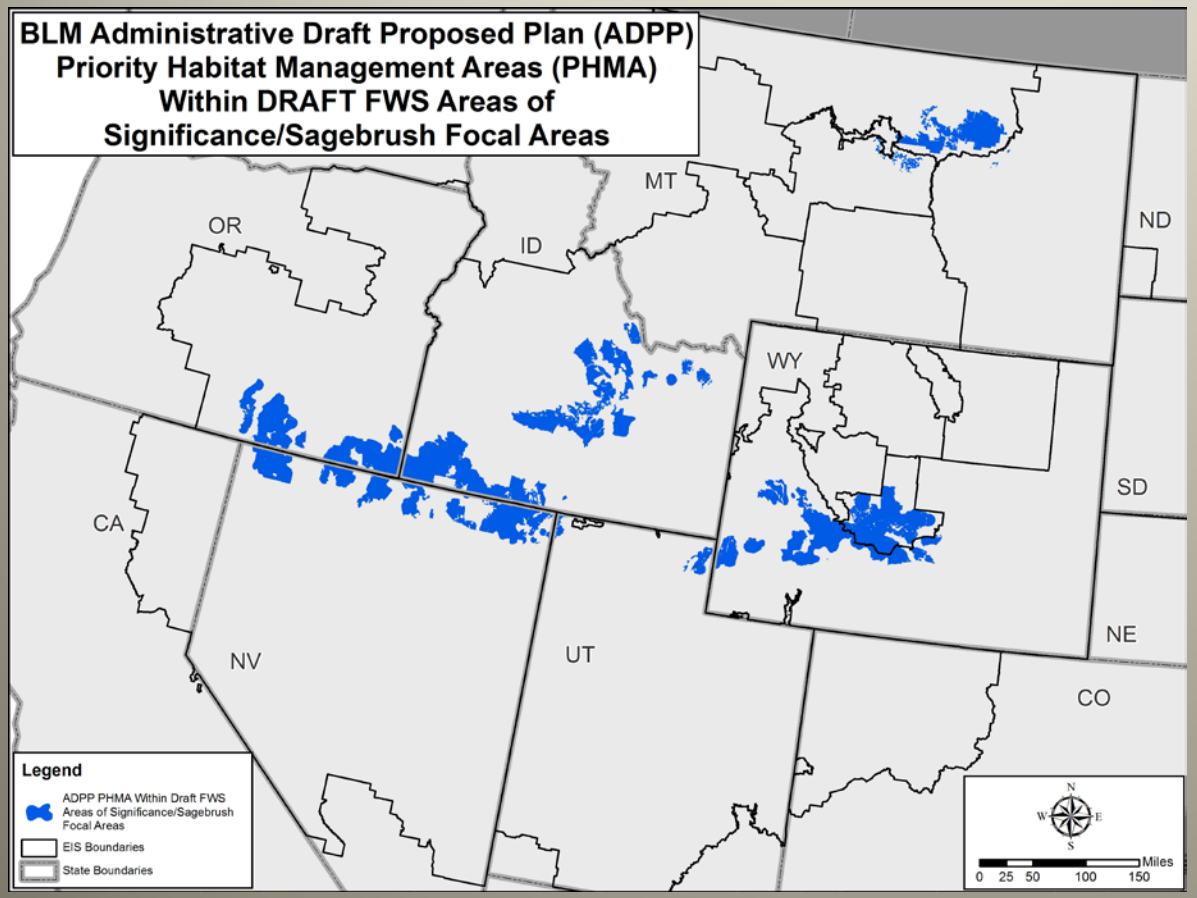
- Excluding activities, limiting disturbance and restricting surface occupancy

<u>23 millions acres of GHMA</u>

- Restricting and avoiding development

Sagebrush Focal Areas in PHMA

Designate **Sagebrush Focal Areas (SFA)**, consisting primarily of Federally-managed PHMA within the Highly Important Landscapes mapped by FWS.

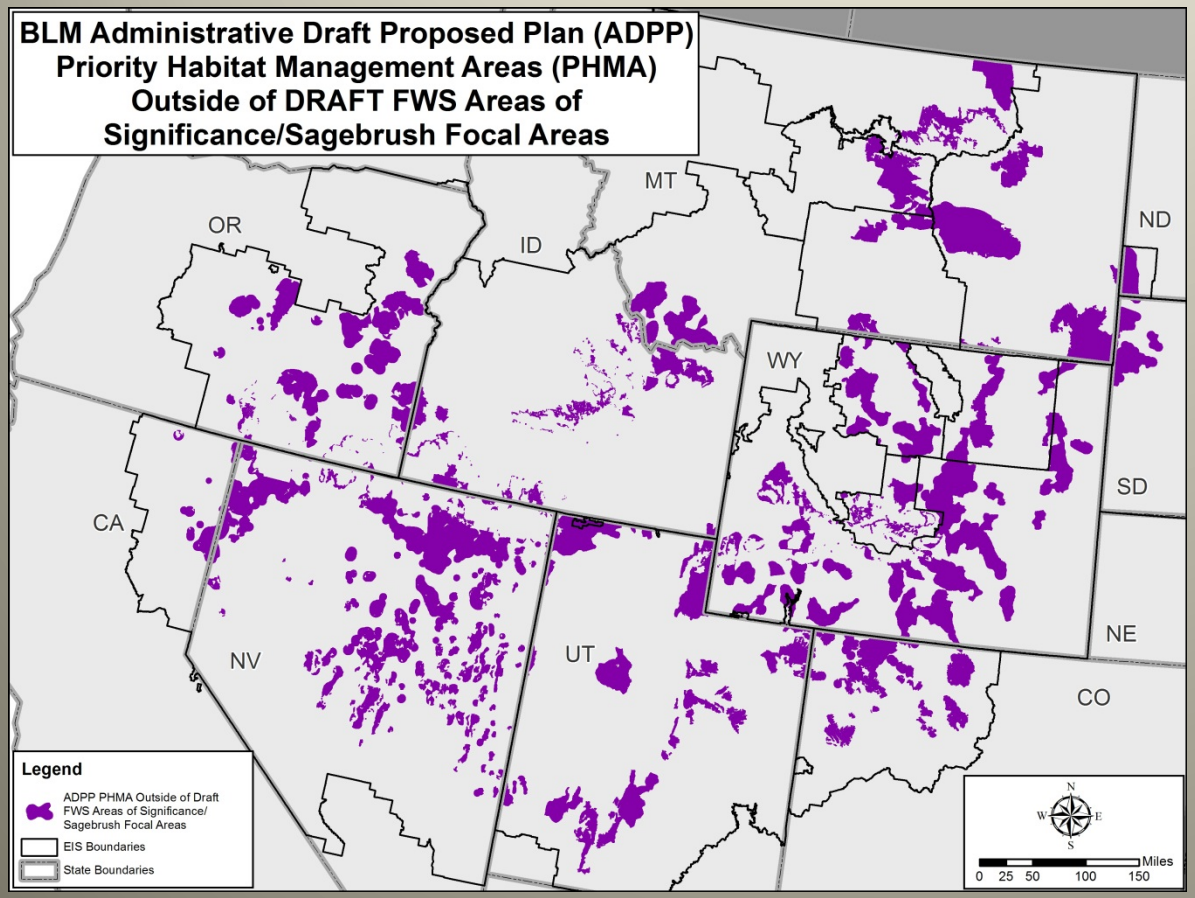


<u>With few exceptions and subject to valid existing rights</u>

- Recommend administrative withdrawals from 1872 Mining Law
- NSO, without exception, for fluid mineral development
- Prioritize management and conservation actions, including review of livestock grazing permits/leases

Protecting Remaining Primary Habitat

Limit surface disturbance and allow exceptions only if they provide a conservation benefit to the species



<u>With few exceptions and subject to valid existing rights:</u>

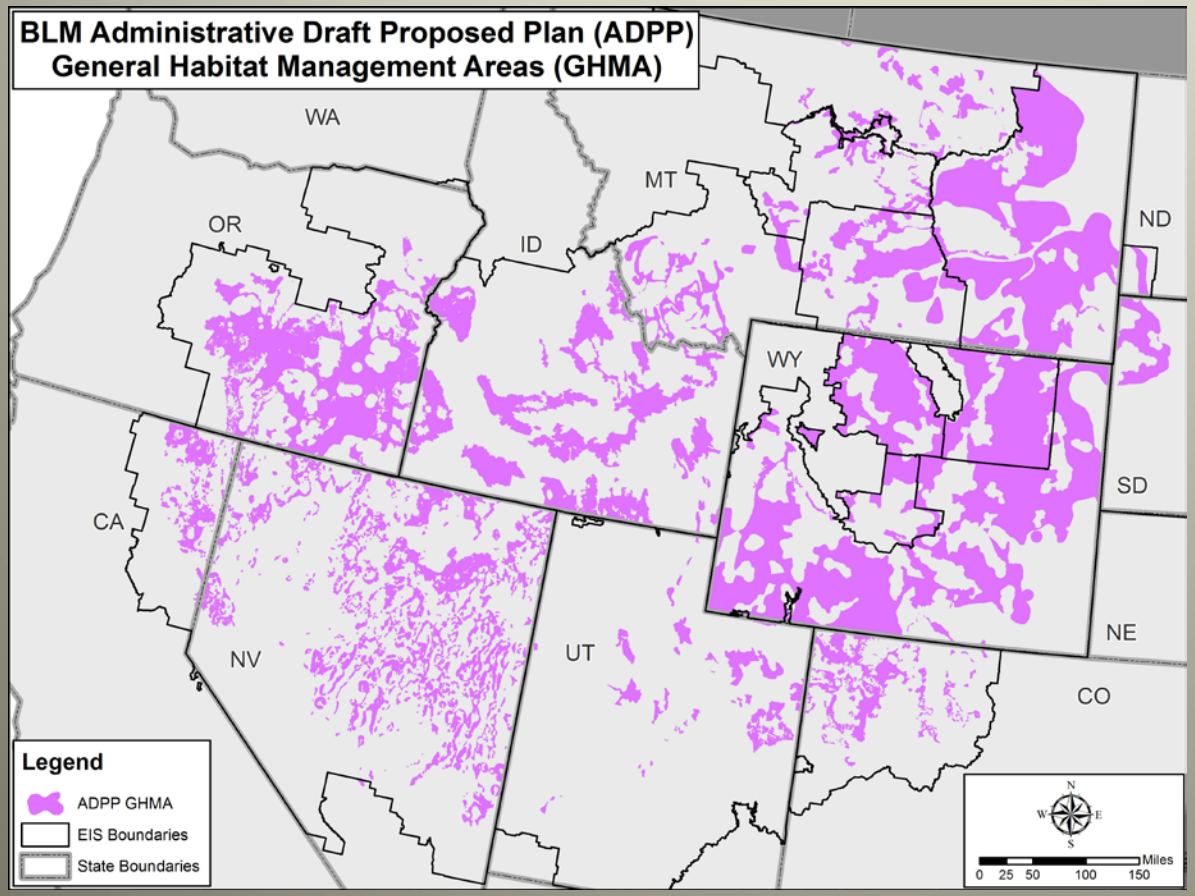
Solar: Exclusion
Wind: Exclusion
HV/ROW: Avoidance
Fluids: NSO (w/ exceptions)
Leasables: Closed
Mineral-Materials: Closed

Limiting Disturbance in Priority Habitat

- Disturbance cap (PHMA only): 3% disturbance at the Biologically Significant Unit (BSU) and project scale
- Density cap (PHMA only): An average of 1 facility per 640 acres

Minimizing Disturbance in General Habitat

Avoid conflict with Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat



<u>With few exceptions and subject to valid existing rights:</u>

Solar: Avoidance
Wind: Avoidance
HV ROWs: Avoidance
Minor ROW: Open
Fluids: Moderate Stipulations
Leasables: Open
Mineral-Materials: Open

Focusing Disturbance Away From Habitats and Minimizing Impacts on Leks

"Smart from the Start" Strategy – prioritize future oil and gas leasing and development outside of Greater Sage-Grouse habitat

In undertaking BLM management actions, and consistent with valid and existing rights and applicable law in authorizing third-party actions, the BLM will apply the lek buffer-distances identified in the USGS Report Conservation Buffer Distance Estimates for Greater Sage-Grouse – A Review (Open File Report 2014-1239)

- **Avoid impacts by locating actions outside buffer-distance**

Key Elements

- Limit or eliminating new surface disturbance in sage-grouse priority habitat and minimizing additional disturbance in general habitat
- **Improve Habitat Condition** ***[Is this a specific provision?]***
- Reduce the threat of rangeland fire to GRSG in the Great Basin by placing added priority on the prevention, suppression and restoration of sagebrush landscapes threatened by rangeland fire through improved federal-state-local collaboration and coordination

Mitigation

"In undertaking BLM management actions, and, consistent with valid existing rights and applicable law, in authorizing third-party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation, ***the BLM will require and assure mitigation that provides a net conservation gain to the species*** including accounting for any uncertainty associated with the effectiveness of such mitigation. This will be achieved by avoiding, minimizing, and compensating for impacts by applying beneficial mitigation actions"

Vegetation Objectives

Establishing GRSG habitat objectives that meet the applicable land health standard in sage-grouse habitats and placing priority on monitoring grazing allotments where they matter most (e.g., Sage Grouse Focal Areas, riparian areas and wet meadows)

A Strategic, Coordinated Approach to Rangeland Fire in the Great Basin

- Identified as the most significant threat to sage grouse and sagebrush in the Great Basin
- Secretarial Order 3336 will reduce the threat by placing added priority on the prevention, suppression and restoration of sagebrush landscapes threatened by rangeland fire through improved federal-state-local collaboration and coordination

Rangeland Fire

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

ORDER NO. 3336

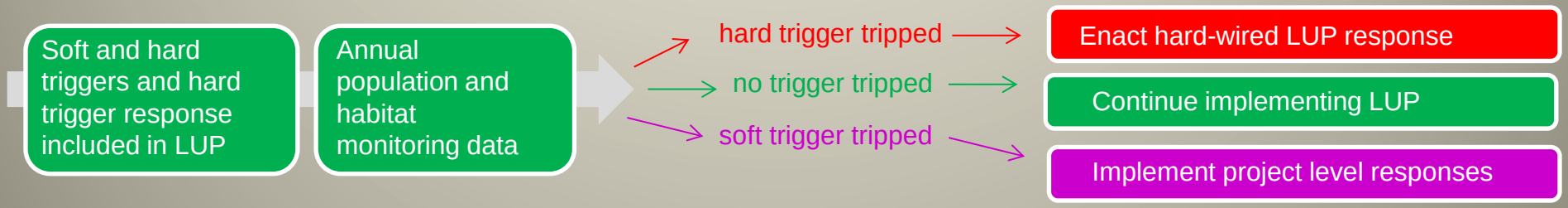
Subject: Rangeland Fire Prevention, Management and Restoration

Sec. 1 **Purpose**. This Order sets forth enhanced policies and strategies for preventing and suppressing rangeland fire and for restoring sagebrush landscapes impacted by fire across the West. These actions are essential for conserving habitat for the greater sage-grouse as well as other wildlife species and economic activity, such as ranching and recreation, associated with the sagebrush-steppe ecosystem in the Great Basin region. This effort will build upon the experience and success of addressing rangeland fire, and broader wildland fire prevention, suppression and restoration efforts to date, including the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, and ensure improved coordination with local, state, tribal, and regional efforts to address the threat of rangeland fire at a landscape-level.

Sec. 2 **Background**. The Department of the Interior is entrusted with overseeing the management of Federal lands for the benefit of current and future generations as well as the protection and recovery of imperiled species of flora and fauna and the ecosystems upon which they depend. Rangeland fires in the Great Basin of the Western United States have increased in size and intensity in recent years. The accelerated invasion of non-native annual grasses, in particular cheatgrass and medusahead rye, and the spread of pinyon-juniper across the sagebrush-steppe ecosystem, along with drought and the effects of climate change, have created conditions that have led to the increased threat of rangeland fires to the sagebrush landscape and the more than 350 species of plants and animals, such as mule deer and pronghorn antelope, that rely on this critically important ecosystem. As a result, the increasing frequency and intensity of rangeland fire also poses a significant threat to ranchers, livestock managers, sportsmen, and outdoor recreation enthusiasts

Adaptive Management

When a hard trigger is hit in a BSU, the designated response will be put in place.



Adaptive Management

When a hard trigger is hit within BSU in a PAC that has multiple BSUs, including those that cross state lines, the WAFWA MZ GRSG Conservation Team will convene.

- Determine the causal factor
- Put project level responses in place
- Investigate the status of the hard triggers in other BSUs within the PAC

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Requires coordinated monitoring and evaluation of:
  - changes in populations (states)
  - changes in habitat condition
  - Effectiveness of mitigation efforts
- Ensures that conservation objectives are achieved through voluntary actions at the local level and required actions in RMPs

Questions

NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC LANDS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT