From: Deibert, Pat
To: Bush, Jodi
Cc: Norman, Kate; Brent Esmoil
Subject: Re: MSGA video conference
Date: Friday, May 30, 2014 12:27:54 PM
Attachments: WEI presentation.pptx

Jodi -

This is a ppt I just happened to have open this am for other purposes. Hopefully this helps?
p

On Fri, May 30, 2014 at 12:20 PM, Bush, Jodi <jodi_bush@fws.gov> wrote:

> Pat. I agree. This is not a detailed look on how we specifically intend to go forward with the particular info but how it works. I guess I wouldn't spend any time on it if you haven't done anything yet. I can whip something up given the 9000 esa trainings i have given over the years. JB
>
> Jodi L. Bush
> Field Supervisor
> Montana Ecological Services Office
> 585 Shepard Way, Suite 1
> Helena, MT 59601
> (406) 449-5225, ext.205
>
> On Fri, May 30, 2014 at 12:13 PM, Deibert, Pat <pat_deibert@fws.gov> wrote:
>
> > Hi Kate -
> >
> > Jodi and I were asked to give a presentation on this topic at the Montana Stock Growers meeting about a month ago. Their meeting is scheduled in 2 weeks which doesn't give us a lot of time. I was suggesting that we do an overview of the SSA process, not necessarily get into the details of exactly how we are doing it for sage-grouse. There may be some specifics -like we will have the CED, but nothing weedy. We can just stick to an overview of the listing process in general, but am certain we will get fairly direct questions on how we are doing this round. Does that help?
> >
> > p
> >
> > On Fri, May 30, 2014 at 11:27 AM, Norman, Kate <kate_norman@fws.gov> wrote:
> >
> > > Good Afternoon-
> > >
> > > Although I certainly appreciate the interest in our process, I think it might be a bit too soon for us to provide a presentation on this topic.
> > >
> > > We're still exploring the best options for completing the status review; we plan to have a more finalized approach in the next month and be able to share this with our partners this summer.

I realize that might not be very helpful and I'm more than happy to chat if I've misunderstood the request.

Thank you,
K

On Fri, May 30, 2014 at 12:20 PM, Bush, Jodi <jodi_bush@fws.gov> wrote:

thanks. JB

Jodi L. Bush
Field Supervisor
Montana Ecological Services Office
585 Shepard Way, Suite 1
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 449-5225, ext.205

On Fri, May 30, 2014 at 9:39 AM, Deibert, Pat <pat_deibert@fws.gov> wrote:

I have a ton of listing presentations, but all will have to be tweaked somewhat because they reflect what we did, not what we will do. We may want to check with Kate Norman (copied here) to see if she has something really nifty we can use to "meld" the two ends... I'm sure this won't be the last request and since it doesn't have to be too MT focused it might be good to just develop a general presentation.

p

On Fri, May 30, 2014 at 9:31 AM, Bush, Jodi <jodi_bush@fws.gov> wrote:

Here is what they asked for...

Given the high profile of sage grouse, our committee chairs have asked about the possibility of having your agency give us ***a short synopsis of the steps you would go through in making a determination for sage grouse, focusing on a MT perspective.*** *Unfortunately, a presentation could only be about 15 min, given our limited time.*

Since we still don't have a MT conservation strategy -not alot we can say at this point about that...
Whaddya think? JB

Jodi L. Bush
Field Supervisor
Montana Ecological Services Office

585 Shepard Way, Suite 1
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 449-5225, ext.205

On Fri, May 30, 2014 at 9:27 AM, Deibert, Pat <pat_deibert@fws.gov> wrote:

I'm sure I do - what do they want to hear about?

On Fri, May 30, 2014 at 9:04 AM, Bush, Jodi <jodi_bush@fws.gov> wrote:

Thats fine. Do you have an existing presentation we can crib off of? JB

Jodi L. Bush
Field Supervisor
Montana Ecological Services Office
585 Shepard Way, Suite 1
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 449-5225, ext.205

On Wed, May 28, 2014 at 3:54 PM, Deibert, Pat <pat_deibert@fws.gov> wrote:

Hey Jodi -

I am afraid I will need to decline this event. My surgery finally got scheduled and I will be out on SL for the next two weeks. Lief Wiechman may be able to help you prep (if you need or desire) but he is at the Governor's Task Force meeting the previous two days. My apologies for the notice, but I wasn't going to turn down the surgery after waiting 4 months for it! Around through Friday....

p

--
Pat Deibert
National Sage-grouse Conservation Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5353 Yellowstone Road, Suite 308A
Cheyenne, WY 82009
307-772-2374, ext. 226

got leks?

--
Pat Deibert
National Sage-grouse Conservation Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5353 Yellowstone Road, Suite 308A
Cheyenne, WY 82009
307-772-2374, ext. 226

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Pat Deibert
National Sage-grouse Conservation Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5353 Yellowstone Road, Suite 308A
Cheyenne, WY 82009
307-772-2374, ext. 226

got leks?

--
Kate Norman
Sage-Grouse Project Manager
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Headquarters
4401 N. Fairfax Dr., Rm 420
Arlington, VA 22203
Work: 703-358-1871
Mobile: 703-927-2445
kate_norman@fws.gov

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Pat Deibert
National Sage-grouse Conservation Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5353 Yellowstone Road, Suite 308A
Cheyenne, WY 82009
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got leks?

The Greater sage-grouse Listing Decision

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Purpose of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*)

"The purposes of this Act are to provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered species and threatened species depend may be conserved,…"

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 1973

AN ACT To provide for the conservation of endangered and threatened species of fish, wildlife, and plants, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the ''Endangered Species Act of 1973''.

Photo © Mark Gocke, Used by permission

Listing Process: Petitions

Petition submission: Anyone!

Evaluation :

- Examine adequacy and reliability of information presented
- "Reasonable person" standard

What's next?

- If there is a positive petition finding, move onto a status review
- Status review evaluates all available scientific and commercial data
- Includes examination of the 5 listing factors identified in the Endangered Species Act

Listing Factors

A. Present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of habitat or range

B. Overuse for commercial, recreational, scientific or educational purposes

C. Disease or predation

D. Inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms

E. Other natural or manmade factors affecting the species continued existence

Photo © James Yule
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Listing Factors

(continued)

A species need only meet one of the listing criteria to be considered for listing

Photo © James Yule, used by permission

Status Review Outcomes

- **Warranted** - Listing proposal will be drafted; species a candidate
- **Warranted, but precluded** - Listing is warranted, but precluded by higher priority actions; species a candidate
- **Not warranted** - Review does not support a listing action; species not a candidate

Petition Summary

1999 – 2003: FWS received 8 petitions

Photo © James Yule
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1999 – Columbia Basin populations
2001 – Mono Basin population (and 2005)
2002 – Western subspecies
2002 – Greater sage-grouse range-wide
2002 – Eastern subspecies
2003 - Greater sage-grouse range-wide (2)

Results :

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Columbia Basin

- Candidate for listing
- Status assessed on regular basis

3 range-wide petitions

- Combined into one finding
- 90-day positive finding
- Negative 12-month finding

Remaining petitions were determined to lack sufficient information to warrant examining the petitions further

Challenges to findings

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Bi-State

Settlement agreement to conduct new finding

Eastern/Western subspecies

- Eastern legal challenges dismissed
- Western legal challenges - remanded decision

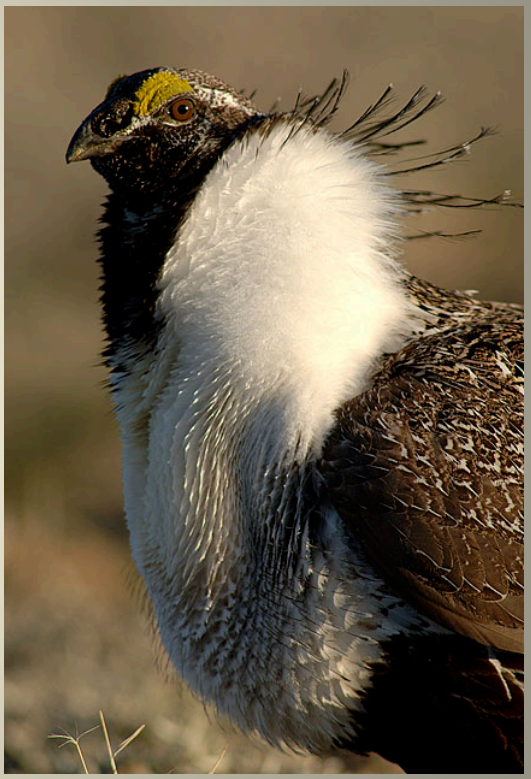
Rangewide

- Finding remanded in 2007

Photo © James Yule, used by permission

Biological Background Species

- Sagebrush obligate
  - food, cover, reproduction
- Long-lived, low reproductive rates
- Can be migratory
- High fidelity to seasonal habitats



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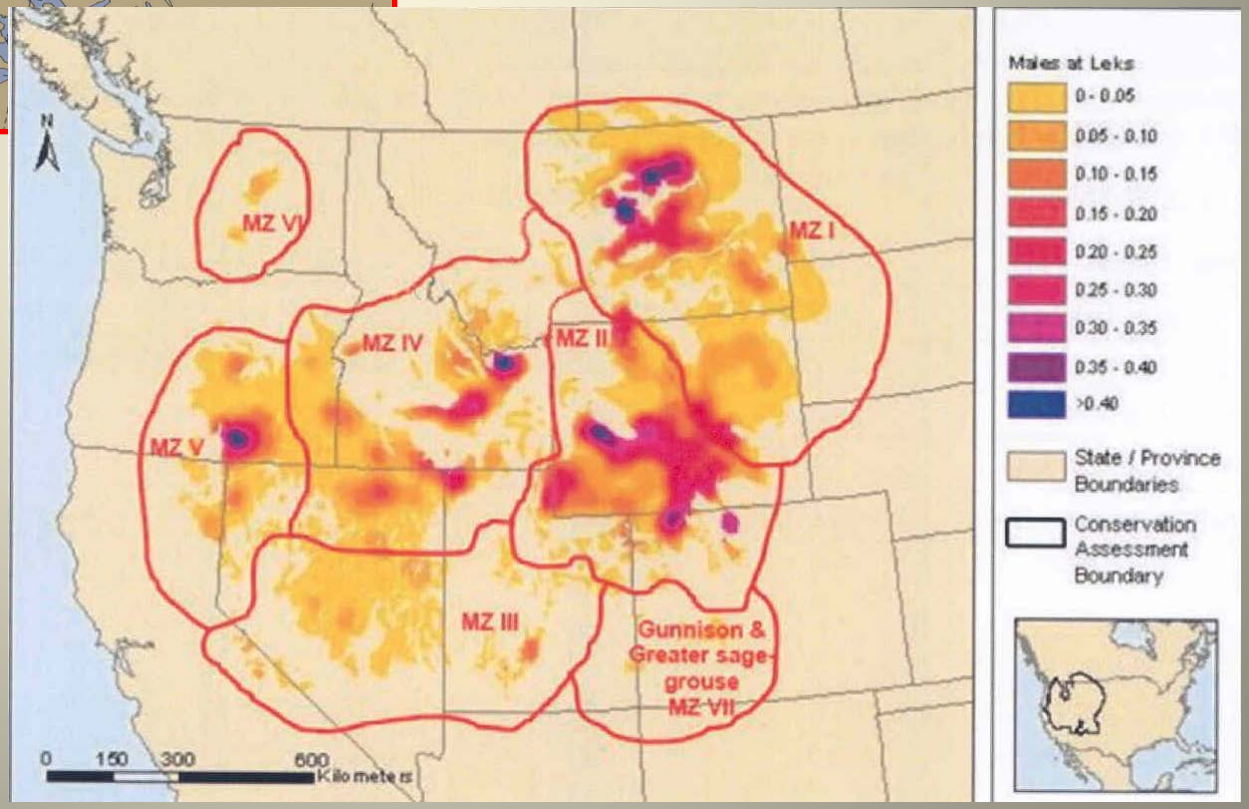
Landscape scale species

Historic and current range

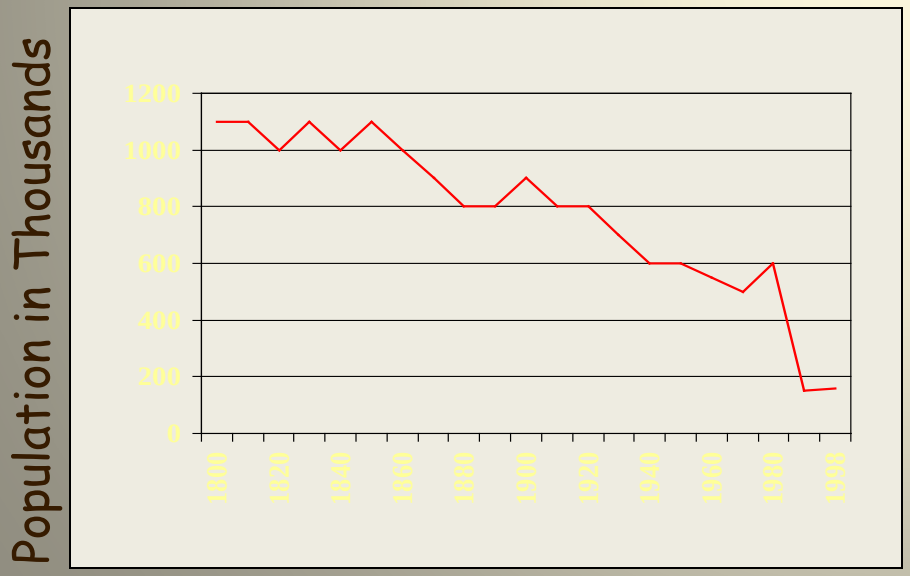


Sage-grouse distribution

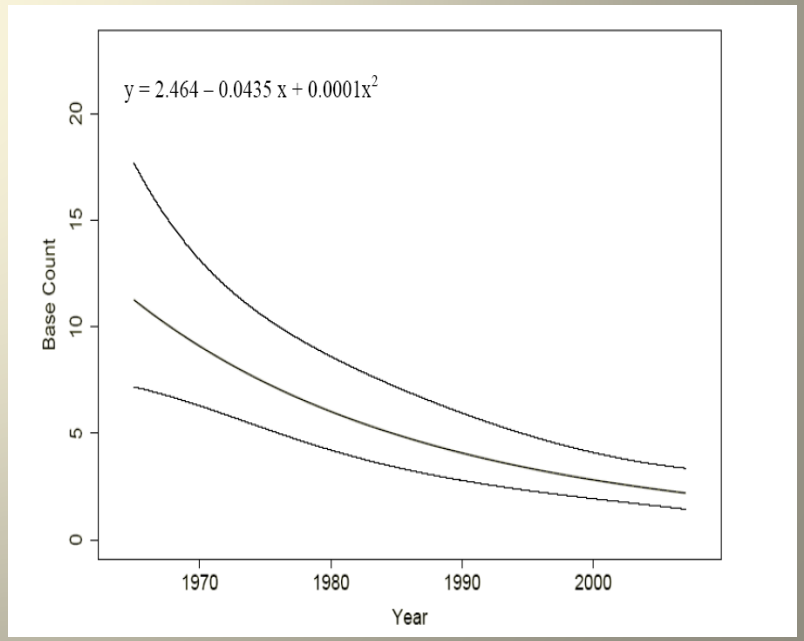
Population Trends

Estimated decline of 80 to 90 % from pre-settlement numbers?

Decline of 30% since 1985



WAFWA 1999 (1800 – 1998)

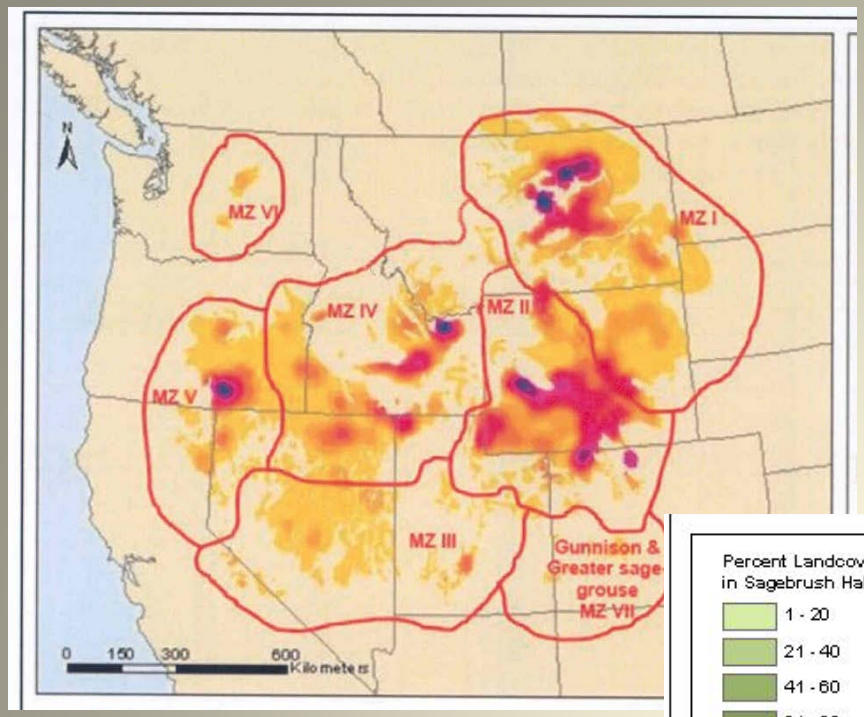


WAFWA 2008 (1965 – 2007)

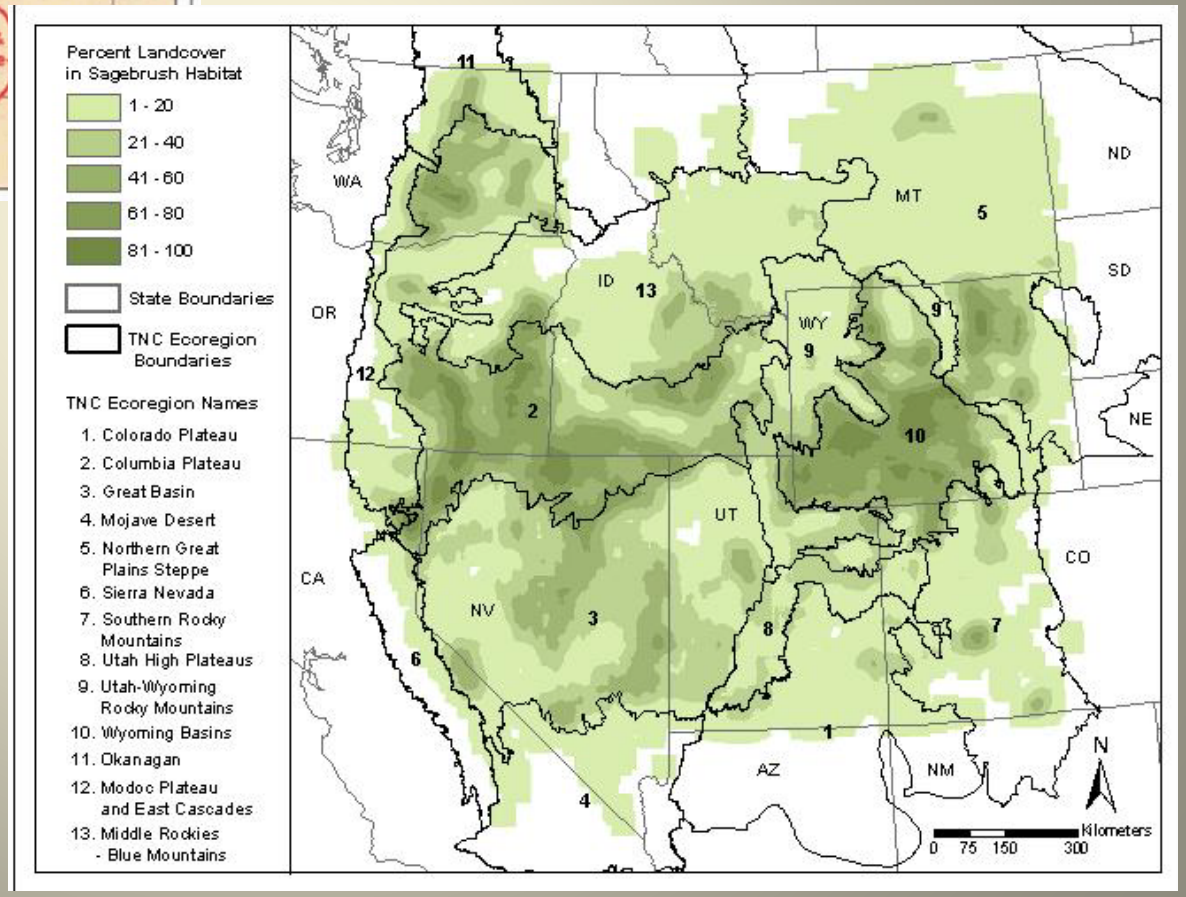
Biological Background
Habitat

- Sagebrush is essential
  - Not all are equal habitat for grouse
  - Also need the healthy understory
- Long restoration times: 20 to > 100 years depending on species and conditions
- Fire kills sagebrush
- Seed banks do not persist
- We don't know how to restore or "fix" it

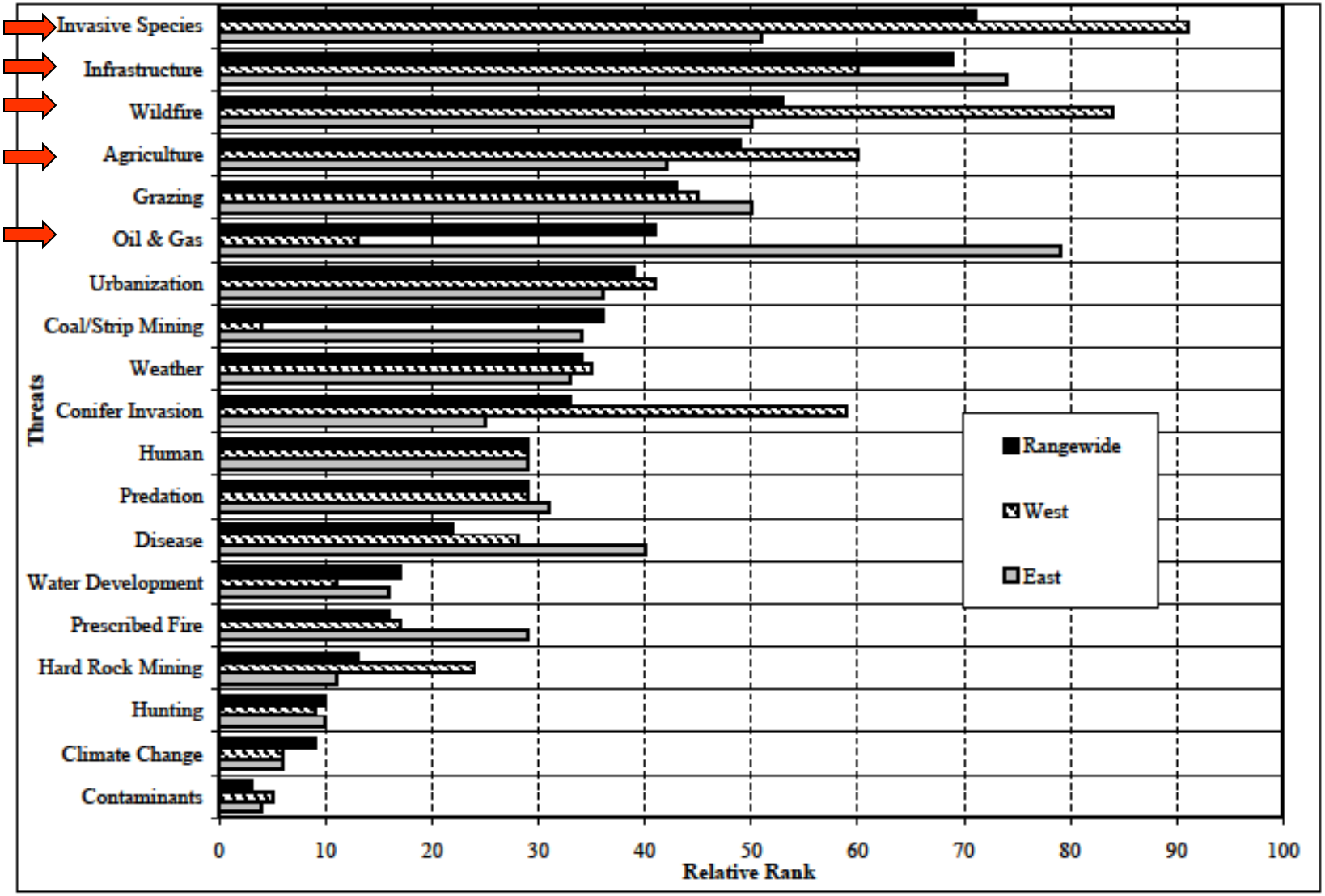
Sage-grouse distribution



Sagebrush distribution



2005 Finding



Changes since 2005

- Threats identified in 2005 remain but with additional new threats (e.g., wind power and West Nile virus).
- Scale and intensity of 2005 threats have increased and are exacerbated by the synergistic effects: e.g. disease and climate change.
- Much clearer understanding of how threats affect viability.
- Regulatory mechanisms on federal lands (60% of the extant habitat) have not been effective at addressing threats.

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Primary Threat
Habitat Fragmentation

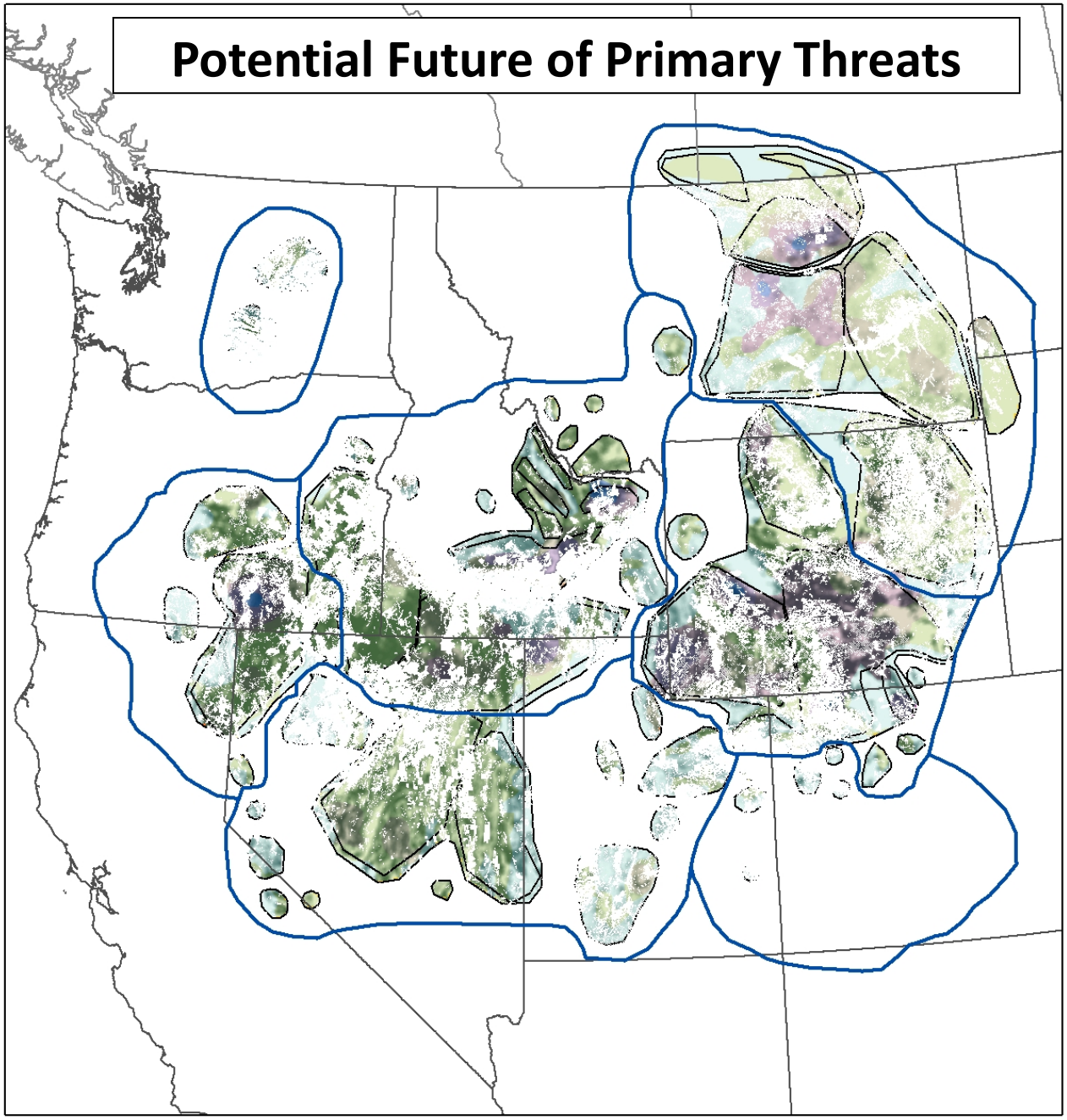
Energy Development
- NE WY: 79% decline in 12 years
- No affect with ≤ 1 well pad per sq mi

  Most fields 16-128 pads per sq mi

Invasive Species/Fire
- Historic fire cycle 200-350 years; now 70 to 158 years
- In Great Basin: 27% of sage-grouse habitat has burned since 1980

Agriculture
- 19 % of SB in MT lost to AG
- 84 % of SB in MT affected

Potential Future of Primary Threats



Sage Grouse Mgt. Zones

Percent Sage Brush

By Sage Grouse Population

% High

% Low

Males at Leks

High

Low

- Introduced Annual Grass
- Oil and Gas Non-Producing Leases

and

- Fires 1980 to 2008
- Oil and Gas Fields
- Oil and Gas Producing Leases
- Agricultural Land

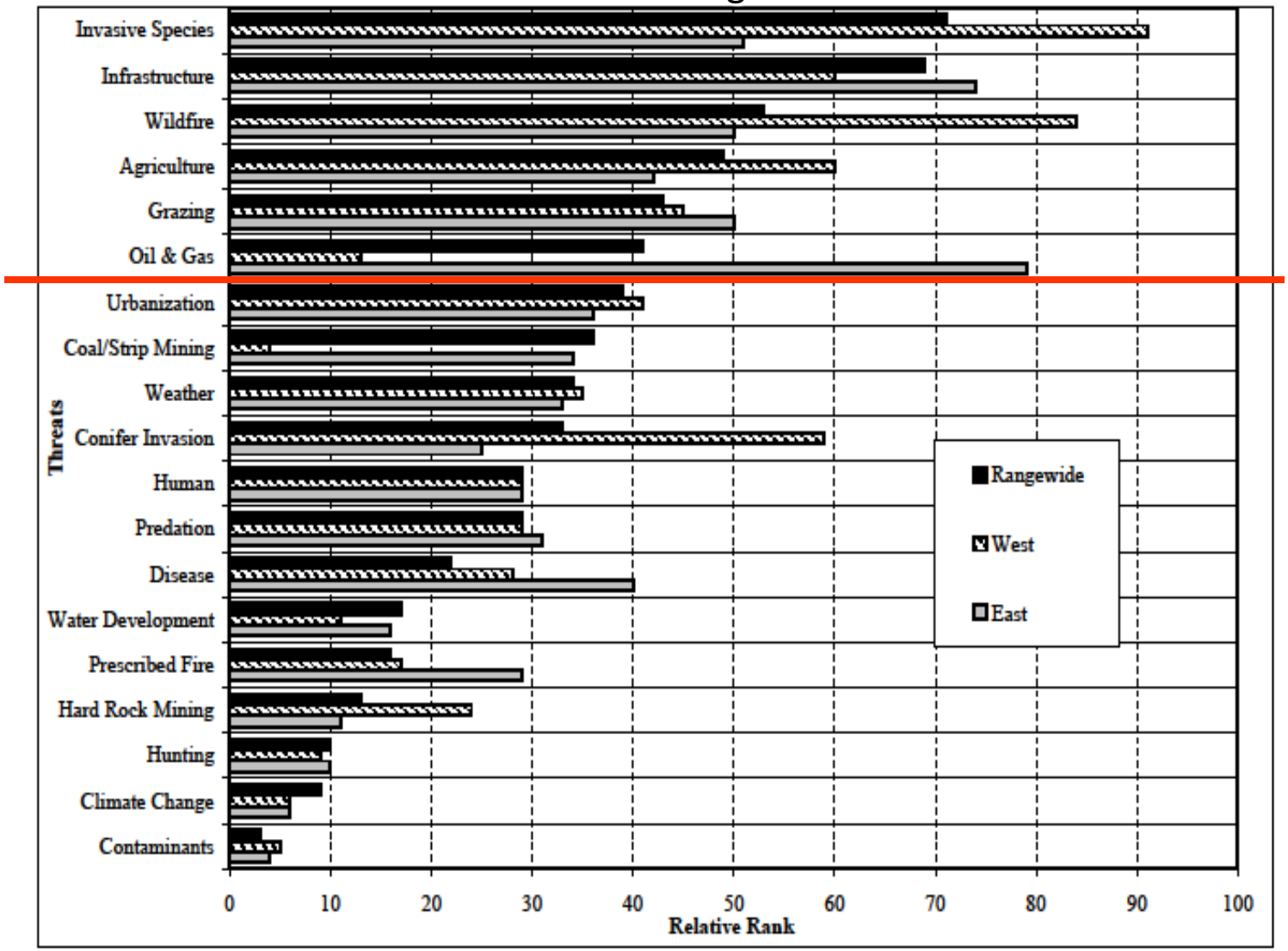
N 0 75 150 225 300 Miles

Map Date: 10/14/2009

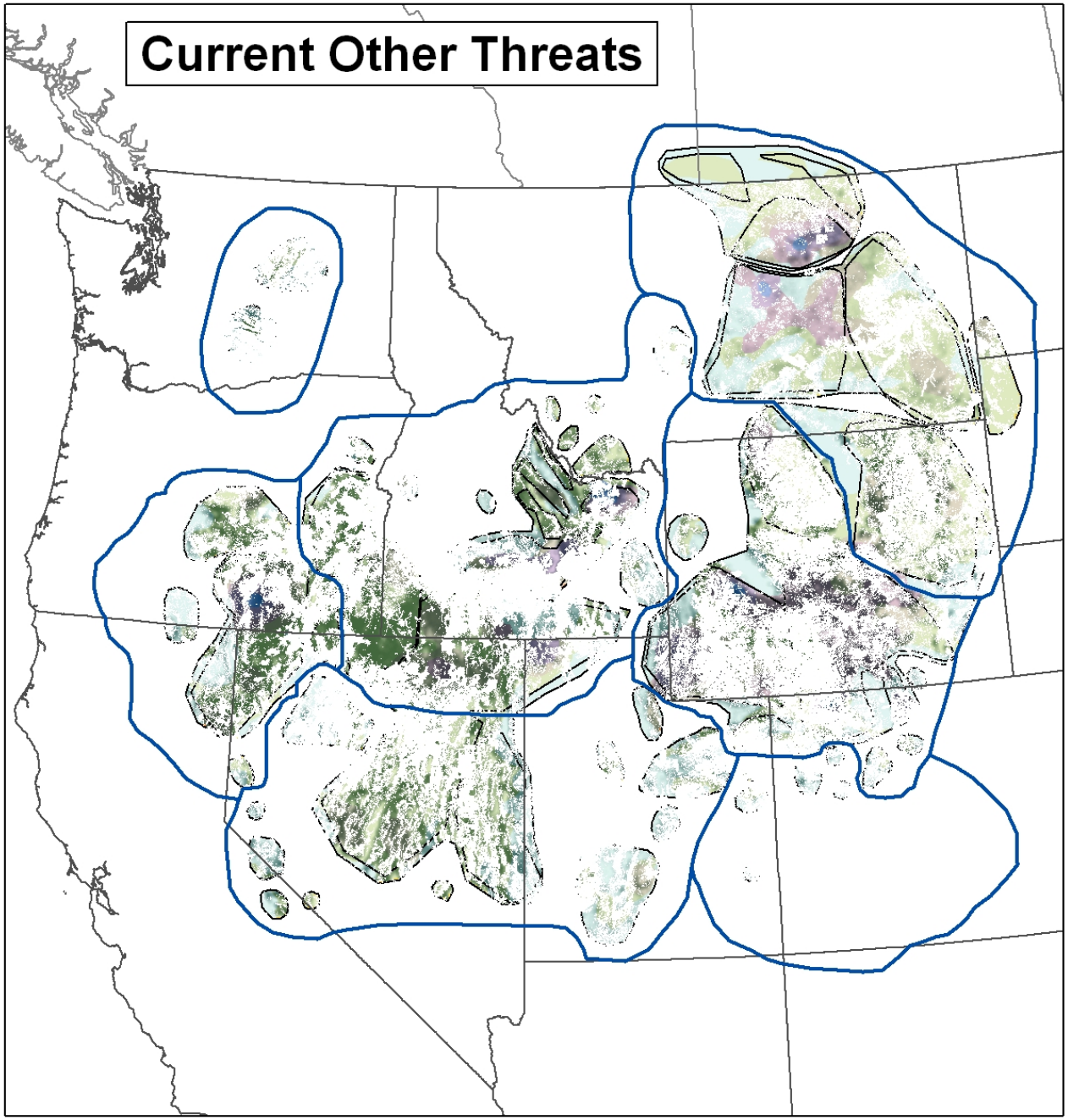
Created by: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, WY ES Field Office
Date: 10/14/2009
Source: U.S Fish and Wildlife Service | Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Sage Grouse Conservation Planning Framework Team | U.S. Forest Service | Geospatial Multi-Agency Cooperation | Sam Limerick (Energy Information Administration) | Steve Hanser (USGS-FRESC, Snake River Field Station) | WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, ID Dept. of Fish and Game, Nationl Sage Grouse Conservation Framework Planning Team, USGS Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center | Bureau of Land Management | U.S. Bureau of the Census | Government of Canada Map
Projection: North American Datum 1927 Albers

Secondary/Synergistic Threats

2005 Finding



Current Other Threats



Sage Grouse Threats

Sage Grouse Mgt. Zones

Percent Sage Brush

By Sage Grouse Population

% High

% Low

Males at Leks

High

Low

- Pinyon-Juniper
- Other Exotic
- Introduced Annual Grass
- Oil and Gas Non-Producing Leases
- Fires 1980 to 2008
- Oil and Gas Fields
- Oil and Gas Producing Leases
- Agricultural Land

N 0 75 150 225 300 Miles

Map Date: 10/14/2009

Created by: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, WY ES Field Office
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Projection: North American Datum 1927 Albers

Regulatory Mechanisms

Considered all mechanisms including:

- Federal
- State
- County
- Conservation efforts

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Regulatory Mechanisms

Mechanisms addressing populations and individuals were sufficient for the conservation of the species;

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Mechanisms for the conservation of sage-grouse habitat were determined to be insufficient for species conservation

Regulatory Mechanisms

BLM and FS are currently revising their land management planning documents to address regulatory mechanisms for sage-grouse habitats

States are also developing plans for addressing sage-grouse habitats

Summary

- In the foreseeable future habitat fragmentation results in remnant, highly dysfunctional isolated populations.
- Finding is warranted range-wide but is precluded by higher priority actions

"The rapidity with which humans can transform an entire landscape through land use is significantly greater than the natural disturbances that previously influenced dynamics in sagebrush ecosystems".

Knick *et al., in press*

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Questions?