

Greater Sage-grouse Update for States

March 24, 2015

Goals for Today

- **Species Report Progress**
 - Urban/Exurban Development
 - Fences
 - Drought
- **Other Updates**
- **Conversation: Conservation now and in the future**



Urban/Exurban Development

Urban

> One unit/acre

Dense development

Intensive impact
(eliminates habitat)

Permanent and increasing
impact (urban footprint
doubled from 1950 to
2000)

Exurban

One unit/1-40 acres

Urban Fringe

Defuse Impacts (modifies,
fragments, may eliminate
habitat)

Permanent and increasing
impact (exurban footprint
increased five-fold from
1950-2000)



Urban/Exurban Development

2010

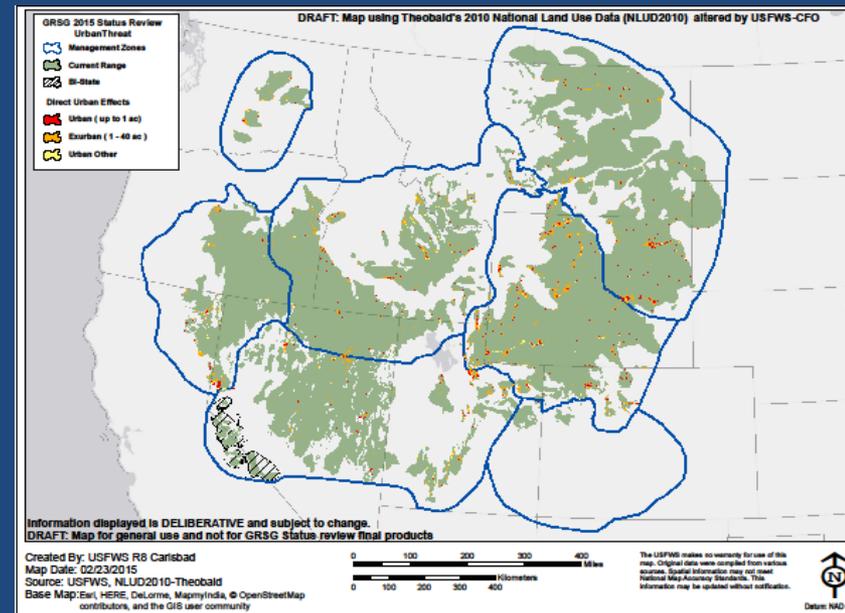
- Identified as stand-alone stressor and for its contribution to cumulative impacts

Conservation

- 451,884 ac, NRCS permanent conservation easements

Current Impacts

- Stressor for two sage-grouse populations. Will be evaluated in conjunction with other impacts.



Fences

- Cause injury and death due to collisions
 - Risk variable depending on topography, proximity to leks, fence design
- Presence of fences can increase predation risk
 - Creates predator perches
 - Fragments habitat



Fences

2010

- Fences identified as threat (grouped with other infrastructure)

Conservation

- Fence marking and fence collision risk tools exist to reduce impacts.
- Conservation also includes fence removal and modifications (e.g. lay down fencing).

Current

- Will be evaluated with other impacts;
- May have cumulative effects when considered with other stressors



Photo source: <http://www.swccd.us/sage-grouse.php>



Drought

- Natural occurrence throughout the GRSBG range
- Impacts magnified when natural event is combined with other stressors
- Can result in:
 - increased loss of sagebrush, forbs, and grasses,
 - reduced insect production, and
 - potential exacerbation of WNV infections



Drought

2010

- Identified as impacting species, not a driving threat.

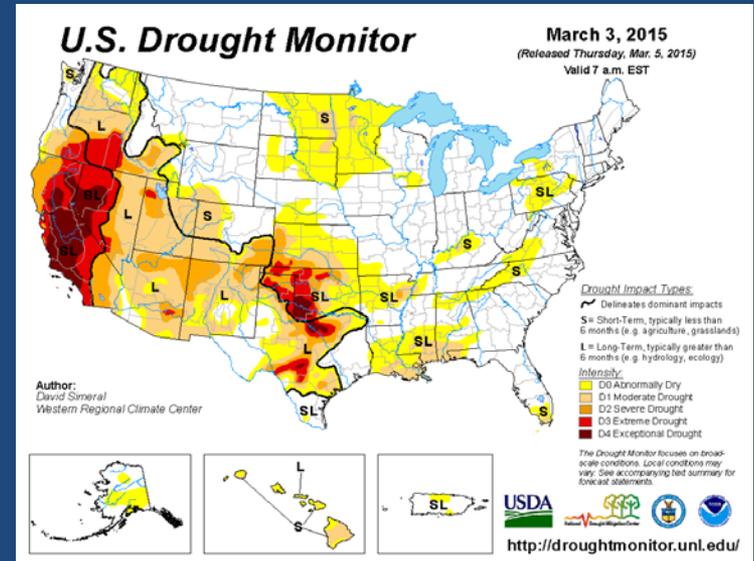
Conservation

- Water Management
- Proper Grazing practices

Difficult to completely ameliorate drought impacts through management

Current

- Will be considered in conjunction with other impacts (e.g. climate change, disease, invasive species).



General Updates

- On-going evaluation and analysis of CED data
- Analysis of NRCS easement and conifer removal information
- Model update
- Evaluation of existing State and local laws and plans



Questions & Discussion

