



Bi-State DPS of Greater Sage-Grouse Proposed 4(d) Special Rule

What will the special rule do?



The special rule would provide increased flexibility for land management practices that are intended to benefit the sage-grouse.

The special rule proposed for the Bi-State DPS would allow increased flexibility in implementing actions that will help conserve sage-grouse. For example, the Service will consider whether to exempt from ESA take prohibitions land management practices consistent with the Bi-State Sage-Grouse

Local Area Working Group Action Plan, which was finalized in 2012.

The special rule provides that any take of the Bi-State DPS of greater sage-grouse incidental to agricultural activities that are included within a conservation plan developed by the NRCS for private agricultural lands and consistent with NRCS's Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI), as specified in the proposed rule, is not a prohibited action under the ESA.

The special rule does not exempt federal agencies from requirements to consult under section 7 of the ESA and does not authorize adverse modification or destruction of critical habitat.

