

GRSG-34 DD: March 6, 2013 (Federal Family Meeting)

Cumulative Effects Analysis Approach for GRSG

Background

On January 25, 2013, the GRSG Consistency Framework Management Leads presented a three tier cumulative effects analysis (CEA) approach to the Land Managers. The approach outlines a strategy for conducting a CEA under the existing GRSG Consistency Framework and identifies who will be responsible for conducting certain tasks and ensures consistency in our planning documents, such that the planning documents will have a programmatic component and a local component for analyzing CEA.

The **first tier** guides all 15 subregional planning efforts to complete a CEA in the draft EIS at a geographic scope appropriate for all the programs identified in their plan. The Cumulative Effects Analysis (CEA) Team produced a template for the drafts that includes a CEA for each alternative that is organized by threats at the WAFWA Management Zone (MZ) scale. This subregional CEA would be conducted by each subregion (using past and present data from the Baseline Environmental Report (BER) and the agreed upon Consistency Framework indicators) and will be placed within the Draft RMPs or Amendments/Draft EISs. The first tier is the appropriate time for local plans to use local data beyond the minimum amount of data that is presented in the BER.


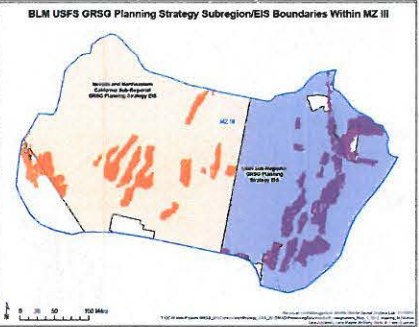
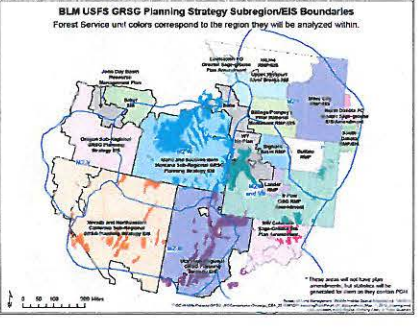
The **second CEA tier** would be conducted in the Proposed RMPs or Amendments/Final EISs at the WAFWA Management Zone (MZ) level. Team members at the BLM GRSG Planning Strategy Team Meeting in July 2011 agreed that this geographic scope is biologically appropriate for the GRSG. The CEA on the GRSG would use information from the proposed alternatives in each subregion. The NOC has provided language to each subregion that sets the stage for this second tier level analysis in final EISs.

The intent is to roll-up this CEA on the GRSG from each WAFWA MZ into one final range-wide Landscape Report (**third tier**). The NOC will develop this Landscape Report after the RODs for all the planning efforts that have been signed. The intent is to provide the USFWS with a document that compiles qualitative information from land use plan decisions across the range of GRSG. If sufficient subregional data and analysis is provided to the NOC, the Landscape Report will attempt to depict regulatory certainty in BLM and FS management of sage-grouse habitats across the entire range of the species. This report will compare the management actions for the No Action (data from the BER) and decisions provided in the RODs to demonstrate the amelioration of threats geospatially (if possible) across the range for sage-grouse.

Decision

- Move forward with a three tier CEA approach.

Three-tiered approach to a Cumulative Effects Analysis under the GRSG Consistency Framework

Scale	Who is responsible?	What data are needed?	What is included?	What will it be called?	When will this be done?	Why?
Subregion/EIS (n = 17)  <p>BLM USFS GRSG Planning Strategy Idaho & Southwestern Montana Subregion/EIS Boundary</p> <p>Idaho and Southwestern Montana Sub-Regional GRSG Planning Strategy EIS</p>	Subregion/EIS Planning Lead, ID Teams, BLM SO GIS Lead & FS GIS Lead, and potential contractor support	Planning unit-level data using Baseline Environmental Report and indicators that were included in Ch 3, including GIS data depicting management decisions in plans.	All BLM/FS Programs will need to complete a CEA as you typically would for an RMP that addresses the effects for all programs	Subregion/EIS Cumulative Effects Analysis	Draft EIS	Each individual plan will need to complete a CEA to show the effects of the management decisions under the alternatives to all of the affected programs within the planning unit, <i>including biological CEA for GRSG within the Subregional boundary.</i>
GRSG WAFWA Management Zone (n = 5)  <p>BLM USFS GRSG Planning Strategy Subregion/EIS Boundaries Within MZ III</p>	Subregion/EIS Planning Lead, Regional Planning Coordinators, CEA Team, Data Management Team, NOC, and potential contractor support	Common data (e.g. from Baseline Environmental Report), depicting management decisions in plans and including known information from non BLM/FS lands.	Cumulative Effects to GRSG in the Proposed Plan at the WAFWA Management Zone.	WAFWA Management Zone Cumulative Effects Analysis (CEA)	Initiated after comments have been received for the drafts; finalized prior to release of Proposed RMP (for all plans within a WAFWA MZ)	To report the biological cumulative effects to GRSG at a biologically meaningful scale (WAFWA GRSG Management Zones). It will be done at this scale so that the data can be rolled up for the Landscape Report.
Range-wide(all MZs; n = 1)  <p>BLM USFS GRSG Planning Strategy Subregion/EIS Boundaries Forest Service unit colors correspond to the region they will be analyzed within.</p>	CEA Team, Data Management Team, Regional Planning Coordinators, NOC, and potential contractor support	Common data (e.g. from Baseline Environmental Report), depicting management decisions in BLM/FS plans.	Effects to GRSG only based on decisions in the RODs.	GRSG Landscape Report	Initiated after the Final EISs; finalized after all of the RODs are released	To give FWS one document that describes how all of our plans will affect GRSG. BLM/FS will provide a Landscape Report across the entire range of the species.