

If state, BLM, or USFS land use planning guidelines do not specify buffer distances, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service recommends the following protective buffer distances around sage-grouse leks to reduce direct and indirect impacts to sage-grouse ([Manier et al 2014](#)). The buffer distance recommendations below could be relaxed to 3.1 miles of a lek if other required conservation measures address disturbance and provide sage-grouse protection, as is the case with the BLM RMP revisions.

### **In Priority Areas for Conservation (PACs):**

#### *Existing Transmission or Distribution lines:*

- Within 5.0 miles of a lek, implement seasonal timing stipulations/restrictions for activities with the potential to impact sage-grouse.

#### *New Transmission or Distribution Lines or Upgrading or Expanding Existing Transmission or Distribution Lines:*

- Do not build new transmission lines or expand existing transmission lines within 5.0 miles of a lek.

### **Outside of Priority Areas for Conservation (PACs):**

#### *Existing Transmission or Distribution lines:*

- Within 5.0 miles of a lek, implement seasonal timing stipulations/restrictions for activities with the potential to impact sage-grouse.

#### *New Transmission or Distribution Lines or Upgrading or Expanding Existing Transmission or Distribution Lines:*

- Construction of new transmission lines or expansion of existing transmission lines is discouraged within 5.0 miles of a lek.

- Do not build new transmission lines or expand existing transmission lines within 2.0 miles of a lek.

**Manier, D.J., Bowen, Z.H., Brooks, M.L., Casazza, M.L., Coates, P.S., Deibert, P.A., Hanser, S.E., and Johnson, D.H., 2014, Conservation buffer distance estimates for Greater Sage-Grouse—A review: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2014–1239, 14 p., <http://dx.doi.org/10.3133/ofr20141239>.**