

Status of State, BLM and other planning efforts

Below is a summary of State planning efforts, BLM Resource Management Plan revisions and amendments and NRCS and other local conservation efforts. The table below summarizes FO coordination with the various entities and, based on information available at this time, the likelihood the efforts will successfully address the threats to the species. [Y=Yes, N=No, U=Unknown; +/- = trends upwards or downwards]

	BLM	State Plans	Other (e.g., NRCS)
SD	Y	U	Y
ND	U	U	U
MT	Y	U+	Y
WY	Y?	Y	Y?
CO	U	U?	U
WA	U+	Y	Y
OR	U	Y	U
NV	U- (N+)	U--	Y
CA	U (with NV)	n/a (with NV)	-
UT	Y	U	-
ID	Y-	Y-	Y

Wyoming

- **State Plan:** Wyoming is the only state where the Service has formally supported the State Plan. Oil and gas wants to get into wintering habitat in areas outside of core and the State is trying to address that now with the Service. Companies want relief from raptor seasonal and spatial buffers in turn, to which the Service has said no.
- **BLM RMP revisions:** The BLM has not given the Service enough time to review draft documents, but BLM and FO are meeting frequently. BLM saying that their preferred alternative will mimic the Executive Order, which the Service supports.
- **NRCS:** There is a CCAA for ranch operations (allotment holders on public lands) in progress.

Montana

- **State Plan:** There is an existing 2005 State Plan which does not include regulatory protection. FWS has communicated this to the State. New governor is looking at issuing an Executive Order to start a task force for state plan revision. Looking to start next month. Pressure from Farm Bureau, Ag. Community to move the needle on listing. The Service has been asked to be at table.
- **BLM RMP revisions:** The Service has been very involved in BLM's process so far, although involvement comes at last moment. The Service needs adequate lead time to provide quality input and has communicated this to BLM.

- **NRCS & other efforts:** The NRCS is working with partners. Good coordination and progress.

Idaho

- **State Plan:** The State developed a draft alternative for BLM process with FO. FO does not believe it to be adequate. State knew there was work to do. By end of August, gave a product to BLM without FWS endorsement. State wants to know what FWS wants. Entered into red light/green light process. Nothing in writing, all verbal. Most recently, the Governor's office contacted the Service for meeting. FWS would like to find a way to make the State Plan into something BLM can use, but there may not be time.
- **BLM RMP revisions:** BLM developed a draft alternative with FO. Relationship with BLM has been strong. BLM has good leadership and they are pro-active. BLM has been pressured by state to use its plan as preferred alternative. BLM has said they do not want to include a preferred alternative in draft documents.
- **NRCS & other efforts:** Good relationship with NRCS and they are targeting their dollars towards conservation

Nevada

- **State Plan:** In the summer of 2012, Nevada produced a Report of which the most important component was a commitment to no net loss of habitat. So any acreage lost will be mitigated.
- **BLM RMP revisions:** Although FO has a good relationship BLM-NV, status of planning efforts is unknown. BLM is putting together a vision for "proper" grazing.
- **NRCS and other efforts:** NRCS is great. NewMont Mine has approached FWS for a 2.2M acre Plan because their mining may impact sage-grouse.

Oregon

- **State Plan:** There is a 2011 State Plan which FWS endorsed; if implemented, it would go a long way to reduce threats in Oregon. Voluntary and recommendations only. The State plans to develop an implementation strategy – expected in January 2014. The Governor created workgroups staffed by State, USFWS, and other feds and NGOs
- **BLM RMP revisions:** FO task is to provide increased guidance, direction, and participation to BLM RMP and Oregon effort
- **NRCS & other efforts:** Unknown. NRCS not interested in having FWS present for landowner conversations. FWS however wants to ensure the efforts are being implemented.

Utah

- **State Plan:** The FO has been coordinating with the State, but current Plan is not adequate and does not meet many of the COT recommendations. This has been communicated to the State, but State thinks we are in line with them. State has mostly moved Plan forward on their own without incorporating meaningful FWS input. The State is interested in FWS endorsement for use in BLM process as an alternative, but we aren't there. The State is presenting a new revised plan on Friday.
- **BLM RMP revisions:** BLM and FO are coordinating well. BLM has not identified a preferred yet, but spending a lot of time on Service comments.

Colorado

- **State Plan:** There is a state conservation plan (2008), signed by federal agencies also. Not regulatory, but includes a developed conservation strategy, it identifies risk factors and BMPs to

minimize effects of those activities, identifies key parties to carry out BMPs and gives costs. However, it is purely advisory. The State is compiling information regarding implementation and the FO has the information in draft to review and provide comments. Colorado is listening to FWS and trying to determine whether the existing policies are addressing threats to the species. Industry is pulling together a list of voluntary measures it has implemented to help inform the State Plan revision.

- **BLM RMPs revisions:** BLM has not selected a preferred alternative and has asked for input from other agencies to select a preferred (in next month). Colorado alternative conveys most of our priorities, but not all.
- **NRCS:** has done some work in CO and Colorado Cattleman's Association is interested in mitigation banking.

Washington

- **State Plan:** The state plan is generally good but needs updating. Coordination has been good. FO expects to see draft of State plan in a few weeks.
- **BLM RMP revisions:** BLM has a limited portion of habitat, so BLM-Washington revisions are not sage-grouse-centric, just general updates. The challenge for management is that most of the land has not been occupied by GrSG. Just in the last year or two, birds are moving into the habitat. So there is a reluctance to be particularly conservative in areas not yet occupied. State is at the table with BLM, but FWS hasn't seen product yet. Washington is actually not part of the larger National effort.
- **NRCS:** A lot of effort including incorporating significant private acreage into sage-grouse management.

South Dakota:

- **State Plan:** The State is working on a plan, but FWS has not yet seen the entire document. So far, it does not present a regulatory framework.
- **BLM RMP revisions:** BLM has expressed to the Service that it will be key to ensure that all Service-preferred protection measures are represented in the various alternatives so that BLM can pick and choose from them when they sign the ROD. The implication is that there will not be one alternative in the NEPA document that includes all FWS desired measures for GrSG. FO has reviewed drafts of the BLM planning revisions.
- **NRCS & other efforts:** Initiatives are on the ground and moving. FWS feels good about their progress. The practices are focused on the correct areas for the most part.

North Dakota:

- **State Plan:** State Plan revisions began last month. ND is seeking Section 6 funding for translocations from MT to ND. Purpose of the translocations is unclear. Oil industry is willing to help. Similar to SD, ND has a hunting season, although it is currently closed.
- **BLM RMP revisions:** There are State concerns with lack of specificity and lack of current science in BLM revisions. The Service has been at the table, but the current statuses of the revisions are unclear. BLM in North Dakota is reluctant to give specifics on what will be done to conserve the species.
- **NRCS & other efforts:** unknown.

California

- **State Plan:** CAL Fish and Game has no plan to complete a state plan, but have participated in plans for bi-state DPS and tends to follow Nevada regarding greater sage-grouse. The State is contemplating state listing.
- **BLM RMP revisions:** The BLM relationship with the Service is great. RMP revisions will track Nevada plan revisions and FWS expects conservation for the species.