

BLM Plan:
EIS Alternative:
Program Area:
GSG Population(s):

[illegible]

Pinyon-juniper Expansion / Conifers			Remove pinyon-juniper from areas of SB that are most likely to support GSG (post-removal) at a rate at least equal to the rate of p-j incursion	Options: 1, 2, 3, 4		Options: 1, 2, 3, 4			
Agricultural Conversion			Avoid further loss of sagebrush habitat for agricultural activities (both animal and plant production) and prioritize restoration. In areas where taking agricultural lands out of production has benefited GSG, the programs supporting these actions should be targeted and continued (e.g., CRP/SAFE). Threat amelioration activities should, at a minimum, be prioritized within PACS, but should be considered in all GSG habitats.	Options: 1, 2, 3, 4		Options: 1, 2, 3, 4			
Mining			Maintain stable to increasing GSG populations and no net loss of GSG habitats in areas affected by mining	Options: 1, 2, 3, 4		Options: 1, 2, 3, 4			
Recreation			In areas subjected to recreational activities, maintain healthy native SB communities based on local ecological conditions and with consideration of drought conditions, and manage direct and indirect human disturbance (including noise) to avoid interruption of normal GSG behavior.	Options: 1, 2		Options: 1, 2			
Ex-Urban Development / Urbanization			Limit urban and exurban development in GSG habitats and maintain intact native SB communities	Options: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5		Options: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5			
Infrastructure			Avoid development of infrastructure within PACs	Measures: Y / N Options: 1, 2, 2ai, 2aii, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10		Measures: Y / N Options: 1, 2, 2ai, 2aii, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10			
Fences			Minimize the impact of fences on GSG populations	Options: 1, 2, 3		Options: 1, 2, 3			

USFWS BLM RMP Alternative Review Matrix (DRAFT)

BLM Plan: Lewistown FO Admin Draft EA

Program Area: All

GSG Population(s): Yellowstone Watershed and Belt Mountains

Issue	Conservation Objective	Conservation Measures / Options	Alternative D
PACs	Retain sage-grouse habitats within PACs	No conservation measures specified. Is conservation objective addressed applying locally-derived measures?	TTM-Existing=Y; Future=Unk: CTTM w/in 5 years of ROD and no interim measures specified. REC=NA. LAR=Unk (avoidance, not exclusion; additional bio rationale needed; mitigation/conservation measures undefined). RM=Potentially (unsure of timelines involved for land health assessments and corrective actions). FM-New=Y (deferred); Existing=Unk (not excluded in PACs, measures still need work). SM=Unk (not excluded in PACs, but BMPs may apply-mining not threat). FFM=Y. HVRM=NA. ACEC=NA
	If PACs are lost to catastrophic events, implement appropriate restoration efforts	No conservation measures specified. Is conservation objective addressed applying locally-derived measures?	FFM=Y (ES&R). HRVM=Y (restoration in PH is prioritized for GSG, but unclear if PH restoration projects receive priority over other projects in case of catastrophic event).
	Restore and rehabilitate degraded sage-grouse habitat within PACS.	No conservation measures specified. Is conservation objective addressed applying locally-derived measures?	TTM=Unk; may currently restore/close roads; CTTM w/in 5 years of ROD and no interim measures specified. REC=NA. LAR=Y (abandoned powerline and FLPMA ROW reclamation). RM=Potentially (unsure of timelines involved for land health assessments and corrective actions). FM-New=NA (deferred); Existing=Y (reclaim project disturbance). SM=Y (reclaim project disturbance). FFM=Y (ES&R). HRVM=Y(restoration in PH is prioritized for GSG, but unclear if PH restoration projects receive priority over other projects). ACEC=NA
	Identify areas and habitats outside of PACs which may be necessary to maintain viability of sage-grouse. If development or vegetation manipulation activities outside of PACs are proposed, the project proponent should work with federal, state or local agencies and interested stakeholders to ensure consistency with sage-grouse habitat needs.	No conservation measures specified. Is conservation objective addressed applying locally-derived measures?	TTM-Existing=Y; Future=Unk: CTTM w/in 5 years of ROD and no interim measures specified. REC=N (PH measures only). LAR=Partially (PH avoidance all ROWs; GH avoidance for wind only); RM=Partially (PH for most measures; GH included in some). FM-New=Y (deferred); Existing=Partially (measures apply to PH and GH, but still need work). SM=Partially (PH for most measures; GH included in some). FFM=Y. HVRM=N (PH only). ACEC=NA
	Re-evaluate the status of PACs and adjacent sage-grouse habitat at least once every 5-years, or when important new information becomes available.	No conservation measures specified. Is conservation objective addressed applying locally-derived measures?	All - unknown as to if/when such re-evaluations are proposed. Assume this would occur at project level, and in conjunction with land health assessments - but proposed formalized review period unknown.
	Actively pursue opportunities to increase occupancy and connectivity between PACs.	No conservation measures specified. Is conservation objective addressed applying locally-derived measures?	LAR-Partially ("when offered", PH a priority for acquisition). No active pursuit.
	Maintain or improve existing habitat conditions in areas adjacent to (currently) burned habitat.	No conservation measures specified. Is conservation objective addressed applying locally-derived measures?	FFM and HRVM: Potentially (not specifically addressed; may be NA)
Fire - YW = L; BM = L	Retain and restore healthy native SB communities within GSG range	Restrict or contain fire within the normal range of fire activity (assuming a healthy native perennial sagebrush community), including size and frequency, as defined by the best available science.	FFM=Unk (not specifically addressed)
		Eliminate intentional fires in sagebrush habitats, including prescribed burning of breeding and winter habitats.	FFM=N
		Design and implement restoration of burned sagebrush habitats to allow for natural succession to healthy native sagebrush plant communities.	FFM=Y. HRVM=Y .

		Implement monitoring programs for restoration activities. To ensure success, monitoring must continue until restoration is complete, with sufficient commitments to make adequate corrections to management efforts if needed.	RM=Potentially (unsure of timelines involved for land health assessments and corrective actions). FFM=unk ("appropriate" monitoring is proposed, but undefined). HRVM=N (none specified)
		Immediately suppress fire in all sagebrush habitats.	FFM=N (PH only, or GH where threaten PH)
		Which (if any) of Options 1a - d were applied?	RM=1b&c (address improper grazing). FFM=1a (perennial grassland restoration). HRVM=1a.
		Which (if any) of Options 2a - j were applied?	FFM=2e (training); 2f (conifer removal); 2i (pre-positioning).
		Which (if any) of Options 3a - e were applied?	FFM = 3c (apply seed where effective); 3d (GSG needs in restoration efforts); 3e (prioritize PACs for restoration). HRVM=3c, d, e.
		Was Option 4 applied?	FFM=N
		Were locally derived measures applied that addressed objective?	RM=Potentially (unsure of timelines involved for land health assessments and corrective actions). FFM=Partially (Y within PACs). HVRM=Partially (Y within PACs)
Non-native, Invasive Plant Species - Weeds/Annual Grasses YW = Y; BM = Y	Maintain and restore healthy, native SB communities	Retain all remaining large intact sagebrush patches, particularly at low elevations.	TTM-Existing=Y; Future=Unk: CTTM w/in 5 years of ROD and no interim measures specified. REC=NA. LAR=N. RM=Y. FM-New=Y (deferred); Existing=N. SM=N. FFM=NA. HRVM=NA. ACEC=N
		Reduce or eliminate disturbances that promote the spread of these invasive species.	TTM-Existing=Y; Future=Unk: CTTM w/in 5 years of ROD and no interim measures specified. REC=Y. LAR=Y (reduce). RM=Potentially (unsure of timelines involved for land health assessments and corrective actions). FM-New=Y (deferred); Existing=Y (reduce). SM=Y (reduce). FFM=Y (reduce). HRVM=Y. ACEC=NA
		Monitor and control invasive vegetation post-wildfire for at least three years.	TTM=NA. REC=NA. LAR=NA. RM=N. FM=NA. SM=NA. FFM=N. HRVM=N
		Require best management practices for construction projects in and adjacent to sagebrush habitats to prevent invasion.	TTM-Existing=Y; Future=Unk: CTTM w/in 5 years of ROD and no interim measures specified. REC=NA. LAR=Unk (no measures specified). RM=Y. FM-New=NA (deferred); Existing=Y (RDFs). SM=Y (BMPs). FFM=NA. HRVM=NA. ACEC=NA
		Restore altered ecosystems such that non-native invasive plants are reduced to levels that do not put the area at risk of conversion if a catastrophic event were to occur.	TTM=Unk; may currently restore/close roads; CTTM w/in 5 years of ROD and no interim measures specified. REC=NA. LAR=Y (abandoned powerlines/FLPMA ROWs). RM=Potentially (unsure of timelines involved for land health assessments and corrective actions). FM-New=NA (deferred); Existing=Y (reclaim project disturbance). SM=Y (reclaim project disturbance). FFM=Y (ES&R). HRVM=Y(restoration in PH is prioritized for GSG, but unclear if PH restoration projects receive priority over other projects). ACEC=NA
		Were locally derived measures applied that addressed objective?	TTM-Partially: Existing=Y; Future=Unk: CTTM w/in 5 years of ROD and no interim measures specified. REC=Y. LAR=Partially. RM=Potentially, but unsure of timelines involved for land health assessments. FM-New=Y (deferred); Existing=Partially (minimize & restore/reclaim). SM=Partially (minimize & restore/reclaim). FFM=Y. HRVM=Y. ACEC=N
Energy Development	Energy development should be designed to insure that it will not impinge upon stable or increasing GSG population trends	Avoid energy development in PACs. Identify areas where leasing is not acceptable, or not acceptable without stipulations for surface occupancy that maintains sage-grouse habitats.	NSO for priority habitat, with exceptions. All (?) exceptions require concurrence from CPW. All (?) exceptions can only be made where data document a healthy GRSg population at objective levels. Probably no mitigation required for an exception, unless needed to remain within 5% anthropogenic disturbance cap within sagebrush. 5% Disturbance cap can be exceeded if GRSg populations known to be healthy and won't be adversely impacted.
		If avoidance is not possible in PACs due to pre-existing valid rights, adjacent development, or split estate issues, development should only occur in non-habitat areas, including all appurtenant structures, with an adequate buffer that is sufficient to preclude impacts to sage-grouse habitat from noise, and other human activities.	habitat areas disturbance is capped at 5% unless population is healthy

		If development must occur in sage-grouse habitats due to existing rights and lack of reasonable alternative avoidance measures, the development should occur in the least suitable habitat for sage-grouse and be designed to ensure at a minimum that there are no detectable declines in sage-grouse population trends (see row below and COT report for measures to facilitate this).	TTM-Existing=Y; Future=Unk: CTTM w/in 5 years of ROD and no interim measures specified. REC=NA. LAR=Unk (appropriate measures to be developed). RM=NA. FM-New=Y (deferred); Existing= N (development not restricted to least suitable habitat). SM=NA (no coal). FFM=NA. HRVM=NA. ACEC=NA					
		Which (if any) of Measure 3a - 3e were applied?	TTM=Unk: CTTM w/in 5 years of ROD and no interim measures specified. REC=NA. LAR=3c (condolidate structures); 3d (reclamation). RM=NA. FM-New=NA (deferred); Existing=3c (condolidate structures); 3d (reclamation); 3e (minimize tall structures). SM=NA (no coal). FFM=NA. HRVM=NA. ACEC=NA					
		Were locally derived measures applied that addressed objective?	TTM-Existing=Y; Future=Unk: CTTM w/in 5 years of ROD and no interim measures specified. REC=NA. LAR=Partially/Unk (appropriate measures to be developed). RM=NA. FM-New=Y (deferred); Existing=Partially/Unk (some good measures proposed, but no surf disturbance cap; no mitigation trigger or definition of "acceptable levels"; no buffers; additional restrictions "may be added", etc.). SM=NA (no coal). FFM=NA. HRVM=NA. ACEC=NA					
Sagebrush Removal / Elimination YW = L; BM = L	Avoid SB removal or manipulation in GSG breeding or wintering habitats	No conservation measures specified. Is conservation objective addressed applying locally-derived measures?	FFM=N (conditional SB burning allowed for protection and habitat quality conservation; avoid winter range). See also Energy Development, Agricultural Conversion, Infrastructure, Mining, Urbanization.					
Grazing YW = Y; BM = Y	Conduct grazing management for all ungulates in a manner consistent with local ecological conditions that maintains of restores healthy SB shrub and native perennial grass and forb communities and conserves the essential habitat components for GSG (shrub and nesting cover). Areas which do not currently meet this standard should be managed to restore these components. Adequate monitoring of grazing strategies and their results, with necessary changes in strategies, is essential to ensuring that desired ecological conditions and GSG response are achieved. Livestock and wild ungulate numbers must be managed at levels that allow native sagebrush vegetative communities to minimally achieve Proper Functioning Conditions (PFC; for riparian areas) or Rangeland Health Standards (RHS; uplands).	No conservation measures specified. Is conservation objective addressed applying locally-derived measures?	TTM=NA, REC=NA, LAR=NA. RM=Potentially, but unsure of timelines involved for land health assessments and corrective actions. FM=NA. SM=NA. FFM=Y (post-fire rest; fuels reduction). HRVM=Y (post-restoration management could include grazing modifications). ACEC=NA					
		Which (if any) of Options 1 - 5 were applied?	TTM=NA, REC=NA, LAR=NA. RM=1 (ensure allotments meet ecological potential), 2 (inform permittees re GSG needs), 3 (include desired conditions in allotment management plans), 4 (assess habitat-make adjustments). FM=NA. SM=NA. FFM=NA. HRVM=NA. ACEC=NA					
Range Management Structures	Avoid or reduce the impact of RMS on GSG	Range management structures should be designed and placed to be neutral or beneficial to sage-grouse.	TTM-Existing=Y; Future=Unk: CTTM w/in 5 years of ROD and no interim measures specified. RM=Y					
		Structures that are currently contributing to negative impacts to either sage-grouse or their habitats should be removed or modified to remove the threat.	RM=N; states structures will be evaluated periodically, but no commitment to modify/remove problem structures other than fences.					
		Were locally derived measures applied that addressed objective?	TTM-Existing=Y; Future=Unk: CTTM w/in 5 years of ROD and no interim measures specified. RM-Existing=partially (fences only); Future=Y					
FR Equid Management (NA in Montana)	Protect sage-grouse from the negative influences of grazing by free roaming equids.	Develop, implement, and enforce adequate regulatory mechanisms to protect sage-grouse habitat from negative influences of grazing by free-roaming equids.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

		Manage free-roaming equids at levels that allow native sagebrush vegetative communities to minimally achieve PFC (for riparian areas) or RHS (for uplands).	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
		Locally derived measures applied that achieve objective?	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Pinyon-juniper Expansion / Conifers YW = L; BM = L	Remove pinyon-juniper from areas of SB that are most likely to support GSG (post-removal) at a rate at least equal to the rate of p-j incursion	No conservation measures specified. Is conservation objective addressed applying locally-derived measures?	FFM=Partially (tree removal w/in 100m of leks and other habitats). HRVM=N. Not specified elsewhere.					
		Which (if any) of Options 1 - 4 were applied?	FFM=Unk. HRVM=Unk.					
Agricultural Conversion YW = Y; BM = Y	Avoid further loss of sagebrush habitat for agricultural activities (both animal and plant production) and prioritize restoration. In areas where taking agricultural lands out of production has benefited GSG, the programs supporting these actions should be targeted and continued (e.g., CRP/SAFE). Threat amelioration activities should, at a minimum, be prioritized within PACS, but should be considered in all GSG habitats.	No conservation measures specified. Is conservation objective addressed applying locally-derived measures?	TTM=NA, REC=NA, LAR=NA. RM=Potentially, but unsure of timelines involved for land health assessments and corrective actions. FM=NA. SM=NA. FFM=NA. HRVM=Potentially (restoration in PH is prioritized for GSG, but unclear if PH restoration projects receive priority over other projects). ACEC=NA					
		Which (if any) of Options 1 - 4 were applied?	TTM=NA, REC=NA, LAR=NA. RM=NA. FM=NA. SM=NA. FFM=NA. HVRM=NA. ACEC=NA					
Mining YW = N; BM = N	Maintain stable to increasing GSG populations and no net loss of GSG habitats in areas affected by mining	No conservation measures specified. Is conservation objective addressed applying locally-derived measures?	SM=Partially (no coal resources present; open to development contingent on Env. Review and BMPs; no "no net loss" policy).					
		Which (if any) of Options 1 - 4 were applied?	SM=4 (reclamation to healthy SB system)					
Recreation YW = L; BM = L	In areas subjected to recreational activities, maintain healthy native SB communities based on local ecological conditions and with consideration of drought conditions, and manage direct and indirect human disturbance (including noise) to avoid interruption of normal GSG behavior.	No conservation measures specified. Is conservation objective addressed applying locally-derived measures?	TTM-Existing=Y; Future=Unk: CTTM w/in 5 years of ROD and no interim measures specified. REC=Y.					
		Which (if any) of Options 1 - 2 were applied?	None					
Ex-Urban Development / Urbanization YW = N; BM = L	Limit urban and exurban development in GSG habitats and maintain intact native SB communities	No conservation measures specified. Is conservation objective addressed applying locally-derived measures?	See Infrastructure					
		Which (if any) of Options 1 - 5 were applied?	LAR=5 (retain PH in public ownership)					
Infrastructure YW = Y; BM = L	Avoid development of infrastructure within PACs	No new development of infrastructure within PACs. Designated, but not yet developed infrastructure corridors should be re-located outside of PACs unless it can be demonstrated that these corridors will have no impacts on the maintenance of neutral or positive sage-grouse population trends or habitats. New infrastructure should be avoided where individual state plans have identified key connectivity corridors outside of PACs.	TTM-Existing=Y; Future=Unk: CTTM w/in 5 years of ROD and no interim measures specified. REC=NA. LAR=Unk (ROW avoidance, not exclusion; additional bio rationale needed). RM=NA (see RM Structures and Fences). FM-New=Y (deferred); Existing=Unk (infrastructure not precluded in PACs, powerlines required to "not impact" GSG; site linear ROW to "reduce" SB disturbance; maximize consolidation of utility corridors - not tied directly to GSG pop trends/habitats). SM=Unk (infrastructure not precluded in PACs, but BMPs may apply). FFM=NA. HVRM=NA. ACEC=NA					

		Where state sage-grouse management plans provide an effective strategy for infrastructure those strategies should be implemented. In all other situations the conservation options in the COT report should be considered.	NA-In Process
		Which (if any) of Options 1 - 10 were applied?	TTM-Existing=4(Y);10(Unk); Future=Unk: CTTM w/in 5 years of ROD and no interim measures specified. REC=NA. LAR =2 (consolidate - but no habitat function mitigation) and 5 (removal/reclamation). RM=NA (see RM Structures and Fences). FM-New=NA; Existing=2a (bury distribution lines; consolidate; but no habitat function mitigation); 7 (noise). SM=None (but BMPs may apply). FFM=NA. HVRM=NA. ACEC=NA
		Were locally derived measures applied that addressed objective?	TTM-Existing=Y; Future=Unk: CTTM w/in 5 years of ROD and no interim measures specified. REC=NA. LAR=Partially/Unk (appropriate measures to be developed). RM=NA (see RM Structures and Fences). FM-New=Y (deferred); Existing=Partially/Unk (some good measures proposed, but no surf disturbance cap; no mitigation trigger or definition of "acceptable levels"; no buffers; additional restrictions "may be added", etc.). SM=Partially/Unk (discretionary BMPs; however, Mining not an identified threat). FFM=NA. HVRM=NA. ACEC=NA
Fences	Minimize the impact of fences on GSG populations	No conservation measures specified. Is conservation objective addressed applying locally-derived measures?	RM=Y, although fence marking only (no problem fence removal proposed)
		Which (if any) of Options 1 - 3 were applied?	RM=N; No distances from leks specified and no problem fence removal proposed.

Threats

Y: Pres. and Widespread
L: Pres. and Localized
N: Not Known to be Pres.
NA

Conservation Measures / Options (Subjective Rating Continuum)

High Concern &/or Measure Not Applied
↑
↑
Lower Concern &/or Measure Applied
NA

Programs

TTM = Travel and Transportation Management (CTTM = Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management)
REC = Recreation
LAR = Lands and Realty
RM = Range Management
FM = Fluid Minerals
SM = Solid Minerals
FFM = Fire and Fules Management
HRVM = Habitat Restoration and Vegetation Management
ACEC = Areas of Critical Environmental Concern