

BLM Talking Points

- The USGS report that compiles and summarizes published scientific studies on buffers provides the BLM with helpful information as we continue our efforts to ensure a consistency of conservation outcomes for the Greater Sage-Grouse on the lands we manage across the western United States.
- The report concludes that variations in populations, habitat and other factors mean that there is no single number for an appropriate buffer distance for any particular type of disturbance. Nonetheless, it does provide a useful overview of the literature on distances of observed effects for various types of disturbances, as well as a range of conservation buffers.
- We will factor the information in the report into our land use plan considerations along with the specific habitat conditions and circumstances and suite of protections employed in the areas covered by each of the remaining 14 EISs.

BLM Questions and Answers

Q. Why did you ask for the report?

A. The BLM recognizes that the specific habitat conditions as well as threats to the habitat of the Greater Sage-Grouse vary significantly across that range. At the same time, we are working to ensure that the land use plan amendments we are creating with our partners provide for comparable conservation measures for the bird across the western United States. We believe the information in this report will assist us in crafting a scientifically sound approach to ensuring consistent, successful conservation outcomes for the Greater Sage-Grouse across the western United States.

Q. How will you use the report?

A. As with prior peer-reviewed scientific reports that the BLM has requested to help guide its Greater Sage-Grouse conservation effort (the National Technical Team [NTT] Conservation Options Team [COT] and Baseline Environmental Report [BER]), the BLM will review the material in this report and factor it in to its conservation efforts. We will take into account the specific habitat conditions and circumstances in the areas covered by each of the remaining 14 EISs while simultaneously documenting the reasoning behind our specific decisions.