



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD., Governor

Department of Fish and Wildlife

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Dear interested parties:

The primary purpose of the Mitigation Framework is to provide internal policy direction to Department staff for developing consistent mitigation recommendations for energy development projects that affect greater sage-grouse habitat in Oregon, as required by the Department's Mitigation Policy (OAR 635-415-000).

As such the Framework is a science document consistent with Oregon's Sage-Grouse Conservation Strategy that provides rationale and calculations for quantifying the ecological footprint of renewable energy projects. This Framework is considered interim guidance until more empirical information becomes available through applied research.

In addition, the Framework is provided as advice to partners such as Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Department of State Lands (DSL), Counties and the Energy Facility Siting Council on a scientific approach for developing mitigation for energy development projects that affect greater sage-grouse in Low Density and Non-Core habitat in Oregon.

The Framework was peer-reviewed by 5 scientists/wildlife managers from 3 western states and 1 conservation organization, all of whom are actively involved in sage-grouse conservation throughout the West. In addition, the Framework was developed in collaboration with wildlife scientists from the Oregon State Offices of the US Fish and Wildlife Service and BLM, and DSL as part of the Governor's Renewable Energy and Eastern Oregon Landscape Conservation (REECon) Partnership. Representatives of the Governor's Natural Resource Office were briefed on the Framework on April 15, 2011 and again during a REECon meeting on May 2, 2011.

The Framework provides a consistent "currency" to quantify, plan, and implement habitat mitigation for greater sage-grouse and other shrub steppe species.

Respectfully,

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Sage Grouse Conservation Coordinator