

**Nevada and Northeastern California
Greater Sage-Grouse
Land Use Plan Amendments
Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

BLM - Forest Service
Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy

**Greater Sage-Grouse Great Basin Region
Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Council
November 18, 2013**



Objectives of Presentation

To provide you with:

- **Status and Schedule regarding the DEIS**
- **Information as how to provide an effective response**
- **Information on future coordination**



Status Of DEIS

- DEIS released on November 1, 2013 for 90-day comment period.
- All formal comments need to be submitted by January 29, 2014
- Will hold public workshops in NE CA and Nevada during the first two weeks in December. Meetings will be from 5:30-7:30 PM.
- In Nevada, the meetings will be in Reno, Tonopah, Ely, Elko and Winnemucca.



Public Comments

- **Comments should identify specific Management Actions contained in Chapter 2 and state how effective or ineffective these actions are in responding to the Purpose and Need contained in Chapter 1.**
- **Appendix I in the DEIS is a table that displays which Management Actions, by each alternative, respond to the specific threats identified in the FWS's 2010 Listing Decision and/or the 2013 Conservation Oversight Team (COT) Report to the Greater Sage Grouse.**
- **Formal responses to public comments will be included in the FEIS.**



Next Steps

- **Review Public Comments (February)**
- **Incorporation of National Strategies for Mitigation, Fire Assessments, Monitoring and Adaptive Management (December – March)**
- **Development of Proposed Plan Amendment by reviewing public comments and coordination with Cooperating Agencies, FWS, State Wildlife Agencies, and Tribes (February – Early April)**
- **Cooperating Agencies review of Proposed Plan Amendment (Late April)**
- **Issuance of FEIS (June)**
- **Protest Period (June-July)**
- **Governor's Consistency Review (June-July)**
- **Record of Decision (September 30, 2014)**



Coordination with Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Council

- The successful conservation of the Greater Sage-Grouse can only be achieved if both the BLM/FS and the State succeed in this process!
- Continuation and expansion of current coordination with the SEC and SETT will be the avenue to achieve this success
- Currently BLM/FS and SETT have reviewed Management Actions (approximately 300 actions) for the Agency and State Alternative
 - ~57% are consistent
 - ~25% could become consistent with decisions on the definitions and application of the minimize and mitigate process, having the same Habitat Objectives, having the same RDFs, and having the same protocols such as Conservation Credit System
 - ~12% One alternative or the other has no specific action identified
 - ~6% are difference in responsibility or for which agreement on action is not likely
- A MOU the State (DNCR & NDOW) for implementation of the final plans is desired



Priority for Coordination

- **Agreement of definition and application of ‘Minimize and Mitigate’ (November/December)**
- **Required Design Features (RFD) (November/December)**
- **Protocol and process for updating habitat delineation and identification (December/January)**
- **Agreement on Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Objectives (Table 2-6) (December/January)**
- **Understanding the State’s Conservation Credit System (February/March)**
- **Fire Assessment and priority areas (February/March)**
- **Establishment of an MOU for project implementation (May/June)**



Key Points

- The DEIS provides for a range of alternatives and conservation measures to respond to the threats to Greater Sage-Grouse
- Threats are identified in the USF&WS 2010 listing Decision and the 2013 Conservation Objective Team (COT) Report
- The 90 –day comment period is underway
- Final Selected Alternative (Proposed Plan Amendment) will be based on analysis of public comments, coordination with State wildlife agencies, Cooperating Agencies, and consultation with Fish and Wildlife Service
- Successful conservation of the Greater Sage-Grouse will need continuing coordination between the SEC/SETT and BLM/FS



Questions and Discussion

