

Potential Alignment of Plans

SEC Meeting

Thursday, April 5, 2018



Mapping Updates

Existing ARMPA

- Update through Plan Amendments

State Recommendation

- Develop process to update through Plan Maintenance
- Available science and guidance from agencies
- Update every 3-5 years
- Adoption through approval by the SEC

Sagebrush Focal Areas (SFA)

Existing ARMPA

- 2,797,400 Acres
- Withdrawal Proposed
- No Surface Occupancy (NSO)
- Prioritized for Actions

State Recommendation

- Removal of SFA Designation
- Apply underlying habitat management area designations

Allocation Exception Process

Existing ARMPA

- Different exceptions applied to Geothermal, Wind Energy, Land Tenure, and Recreation

State Recommendation

- Apply consistent methods to be applied to all exception determinations
- On-site evaluations
- Public Health, Safety, Emergency

Seasonal Timing Restrictions

Existing ARMPA

- Seasonal dates and time of day (Leks only) restrictions
- Allows for modifications based on local geography and climatology
- Allows for vegetative treatments to occur with exceptions

State Recommendation

- Retain existing dates and time restrictions
- Modification or removal of seasonal dates based upon:
 - ❖ Impact type, duration or benefit
- Public health, safety, emergency exceptions

Mitigation

Existing ARMPA

- PHMA and GHMA
- Net conservation gain
- Applied as appropriate
- MOU with State
- Use of CCS or Other
- Coordinate and consult with SETT on AMM and use of CCS

State Recommendation

- As appropriate, use the HQT to quantify debits and credits outside the BEA
- Mitigation may occur through CCS or a proponent developed alternative
- Disturbance in OHMA with indirect effects to GHMA or PHMA should also be mitigated

Habitat Objectives

Existing ARMPA

- Update through Plan Amendments

State Recommendation

- Develop process to update through Plan Maintenance
- Update every 3-5 years
- Available science and guidance from agencies
- Adoption through approval by the SEC

Adaptive Management (Triggers)

Existing ARMPA-

- A biologically significant unit (see Appendix A; Figure 2-2) that has hit a soft trigger due to vegetation disturbance will be a priority for restoration treatments consistent with Fire and Invasives Assessment Tool (FIAT) (Appendix J).
- If a soft trigger is reached, the BLM will identify the causal factor and apply additional project-level adaptive management and/or mitigation measures contained in the authorization (and for future similar authorizations), to alleviate the specific or presumptive causes in the decline of GRSG populations or its habitats and include the following:

Triggers Cont'd

- The adjustment in management would be based on the causal factor and would affect only the area being impacted in the lek cluster or other appropriate scale (e.g., BSU).
- GRSG populations and habitat would continue to be monitored annually.
- If the causal factor were not readily discernable, then an interdisciplinary team, including the BLM, Forest Service (as applicable), and state wildlife agency representatives, would identify the appropriate mitigation or adjusted management actions in a timely manner.

Triggers Cont'd

- Once a hard trigger has been reached, all responses in Table J-1 and Table J-2 in Appendix J will be implemented. This includes where soft triggers have been reached for both population and habitat.
- When a hard trigger is hit in a PAC that has multiple BSUs, including those that cross state lines, the WAFWA Management Zone GRSG Conservation Team will convene to determine the cause, will put project level responses in place, as appropriate, and will discuss further appropriate actions to be applied.

Triggers Cont'd

- The team will also investigate the status of the hard triggers in other BSUs in the PAC and will invoke the appropriate plan response. Adopting any further actions at the plan level may require initiating a plan amendment process.
- The hard and soft trigger data will be analyzed as soon as it becomes available after the signing of the ROD and then at a minimum, analyzed annually thereafter.

State Recommendation

- Adaptive management is addressed in section 9.0 in the State Plan.
- Outlines processes when conducting adaptive management
- Focuses on significant monitoring efforts
- Does not directly deal with population or habitat triggers/signals

Potential Options - Triggers

- Don't address in State Plan
- Work with BLM, USFS, USGS, USFWS, NDOW on incorporating latest science by USGS/Dr. Coates et al.
- Define other defensible and appropriate methodologies to be used in NV



Policy Updates/Clarification to ARMPA

- **Modify Lek Buffers** – Appendix B – Site evaluation process prior to decision
- **Fire & Invasive Plants** – Reference of Fuel Break & Rangeland Restoration PEISs
- **Outcome Based Grazing** – Support opportunities – 5 pilot sites selected for NV
- **Design Features** – Appendix C – Develop worksheet to consistently apply use of design features

As discussed earlier, staff is also recommending an update of the State Plan to incorporate most of these concepts.