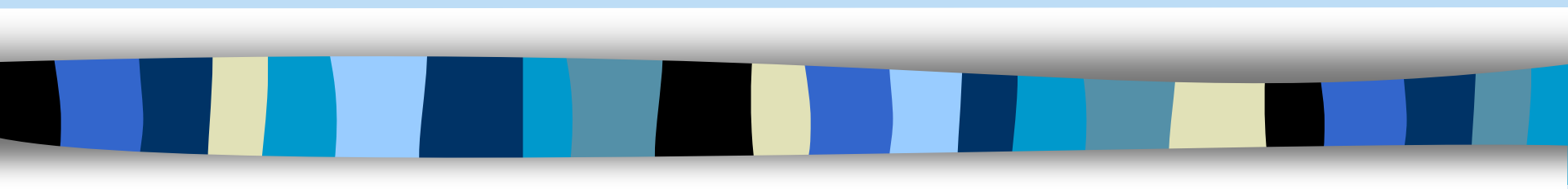
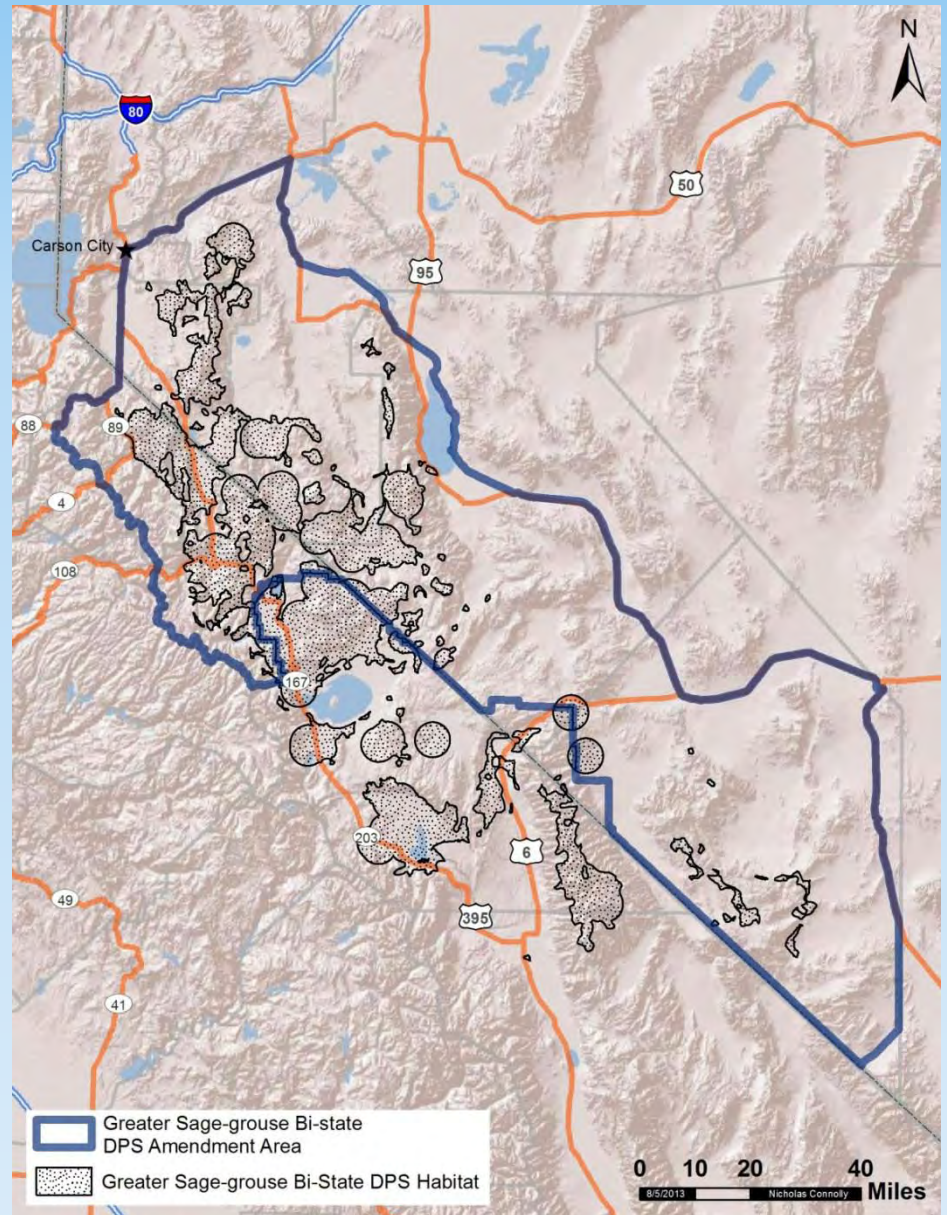


Greater Sage Grouse Bi-State Distinct Population Segment Draft Environmental Impact Statement



Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest,
Bureau of Land Management, Land Use Plan
Amendments

Project Area





Purpose and Need

- Purpose: to conserve, enhance, and/or restore sagebrush and associated habitats to provide for the long-term viability of the Bi-State sage-grouse.
- Need: to address the March 2010 “warranted, but precluded” Endangered Species Act finding by addressing the needed changes in direction at the land use plan level to include regulatory mechanisms for the management and conservation of Bi-State sage-grouse habitats.



Issues

- Two significant issues identified
 - Access
 - Economics
- Other comments included suggested alternatives, corrections, clarifications, and opinions,



Alternatives

Two alternatives considered in detail

- No Action
 - Illustrates the potential effects of both issues when compared to the proposed amendment
- Proposed Amendment
 - Five parts



Proposed Amendment

- Desired Habitat Conditions (Coates, Connolley, Doherty, Casazza, Lockyer)
- Mapped Priority Habitat (USGS)
- Identify goals (3)
- Identify objectives (6)
- Identify specific standards and guidelines tiered to helping the partners reach the stated goals and objectives.



Proposed Amendment

- **Goal 2:** Bi-state sage grouse and their priority habitats will benefit from standards and guidelines adopted to eliminate or reduce negative impacts and increase positive impacts from discretionary and non-discretionary actions.
- **Objective 2a:** By 2020, Bi-state sage grouse productivity, survival, or use of seasonal habitats will be at least at the same level as they are in 2014.
- **Standard 2b:** Buffers, timing limitations, or offsite habitat restoration shall be applied to all new or renewed discretionary actions in Bi-state-sage grouse habitat to mitigate potential long-term negative impacts.
- **Guideline 2c:** Where feasible, bury powerlines to reduce overhead perches.



Alternatives to the Proposed Amendment

Five alternatives considered and eliminated from detailed consideration.

- Change all standards to guidelines.
- Different levels of buffers
- Eliminate all discretionary actions within the amendment area.
- Exclude areas from mapped habitat to reduce potential effects of Regulatory mechanisms on ongoing activity.



Outcomes

- Provides defined regulatory mechanisms
- Improves the partners ability to conserve, enhance, and/or restore sagebrush and associated habitats to provide for the long-term viability of the Bi-State sage-grouse.
- Impacts to resource management is expected to be minor, with specific project design features being addressed at the site-specific NEPA level.
- Includes conservation measures that have been implemented for several years; therefore, any change in site-specific activities is expected to be minimal.

Bi-State/ NV/CA GRS Comparison

| | Bi-State | Sub Regional GSG NV/CA |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Acres (million) FS/BLM only | 1.3 | 49.9 |
| Habitat Types | PPH | PPH/PGH |
| Administrative Units | 4 | 11 |
| States/Counties | 2/6 | 2/20 |
| Alternatives | 2 | 6 |
| Eliminated from Detailed Analysis | 5 | 3 |
| Regulatory mechanisms | Desired Habitat Condition, Goals, Objectives, Standards and Guidelines | Desired Habitat Condition Goals, Objectives, sub- objectives and actions |

Questions?

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http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=40683



Proposed Amendment

Goal ~ Concise description of desired future conditions that are written in broad, general terms without specific dates for achievement.

Objective ~ Concise, measurable, time-specific statements of desired rates of progress toward desired conditions (goals).

Standard ~ A mandatory constraint on decision-making. To approve a project that may not meet a standard would require a plan amendment.

Guideline ~ A constraint on decision-making that allows for departure from its terms, as long as the purpose of the guideline is met.

19 standards 8 guidelines identified in the proposed amendment



Who

- Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
 - Carson Ranger District
 - Bridgeport Ranger District
- Bureau of Land Management
 - Carson City District
 - Battle Mountain District, Tonopah Field Office
- Referred to as partners