

Introduction to the Proposed Habitat Objectives for Greater Sage-Grouse (Table 2-6)

A report prepared by the National Technical Team (NTT) on conservation measures needed to maintain and/or enhance Greater Sage-Grouse (GRSG) populations identified the need to include indicators and measurements of structure, condition and composition of vegetation specific to achieving GRSG habitat objectives. If local or state seasonal habitat objectives were not available, the agencies would use the general habitat objectives as defined by Connelly et al. (2000) and Hagen et al. (2007) for the conservation of the species. Table 2-6 is an adjustment of the key habitat parameters within the Nevada and Northeastern California Sub-region and is a synthesis of existing data within the planning area. The objectives identified in Table 2-6 depict a synthesis of local and state GRSG habitat data. Relying largely on data collected by the US Geological Survey, a team consisting of representatives from the US Fish and Wildlife, Nevada Department of Wildlife, US Forest Service and BLM reviewed the Connelly et al. 2000 guidelines adding considerable detail and making adjustments based on regionally and locally derived data and analysis by the US Geological Survey.

The revised Habitat Objectives will be used to evaluate projects and management actions that are proposed in GRSG habitat to ensure that the current habitat conditions are maintained (if currently meeting habitat objectives) or allowing habitat conditions to move toward the objectives if the current conditions are not meeting the objectives. For ongoing activities where habitat objectives are not being achieved and the casual factor can be related to a specific use, adjustment(s) in the current activities will be identified and adjustments made, as appropriate.