

BLM GREATER-SAGE GROUSE IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

November 10, 2016

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BLM Update

1. Diffuse and Discrete Uses
2. Conservation and Restoration Activities
3. Reporting and Adapting
4. Update on FWS 2020 status review
5. Update on mitigation activities
6. Update on the 2016 fire season

BLM Instruction Memos

- Collaboration with federal and state partners during development of Instruction Memoranda
 - Internal workshops
 - External workshops
 - GRSB Task Force
 - National Policy Team
- Ongoing development of strategic conservation and restoration efforts with WAFWA
- Ongoing development of mitigation framework and mitigation mechanisms with SGTF



MANAGING DIFFUSE USES

Wild horse and burro

Recreation

Grazing

Setting Priorities for Review and Processing of Grazing Authorizations (IM 2016-141)

- **Prioritization**
 - Prioritize areas not assessed or not meeting standards
 - Prioritize areas where triggers have been tripped
 - Prioritize areas with limiting seasonal habitat
 - Prioritize areas where threats have been identified

Incorporating Thresholds and Responses into Grazing Permits/ Leases (IM 2016-142)

- Incorporating thresholds and responses
 - Allows BLM and permittees to respond more quickly to areas where conditions have changed
 - Provides an opportunity to develop thresholds and responses since the current process for modifying a permit can take several years.
 - Continue to coordinate with permittees, state agencies, interested public, etc. during the permit renewal process
 - Thresholds will be included in one environmental analysis alternative to allow for flexibility and timely adjustments
 - Responses designed to address limiting habitat characteristic



MANAGING DISCRETE USES

Surface disturbance authorizations
Travel and transportation

Tracking and Reporting Surface Disturbance and Reclamation (IM 2016-145)

- Population-scale disturbance estimates
 - Estimate disturbance in priority habitat management areas (PHMA) by population
 - What is the trend? What is the rate? How is it changing?
- Project level calculation
 - Calculate disturbance in PHMA within proposed project area
 - 3% cap except 5% in WY and MT (states managing disturbance on state lands)
- Tracking reclamation post disturbance

Threats at the BSU and the Project Scale

1. Oil/Gas wells and development facilities
2. Coal mines
3. Wind towers
4. Solar fields
5. Geothermal development facilities
6. Mining
7. Roads
8. Railroads
9. Power lines
10. Communication towers
11. Other vertical structures
12. Other developed right-of-ways



Seven Additional at the Project Scale

1. Coal bed methane ponds
2. Meteorological towers
3. Nuclear energy facilities
4. Airport facilities
5. Military range facilities
6. Hydroelectric plants
7. Recreation areas and facilities

Oil and Gas Leasing and Development Sequential Prioritization (IM 2016-143)

- Prioritize surface disturbance requests
 - Prioritize leasing outside of SG Habitat first
 - Sequential Prioritization leasing in Habitat
 - Apply proper stipulations to affected new leases
 - Ensure operator/lessee compliance with sage grouse mitigation measures



IMPLEMENTING RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

C&R Strategy

Assessment tools

5-year program of work

Resistance and Resilience Concept

- WAFWA initiated
- Fire and Invasives Assessment Tool (FIAT)
- Sagebrush Management Resilience and Resistance Tool (SMRTT)

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

Using Resistance and Resilience Concepts to Reduce Impacts of Invasive Annual Grasses and Altered Fire Regimes on the Sagebrush Ecosystem and Greater Sage-Grouse: A Strategic Multi-Scale Approach

Jeanne C. Chambers, David A. Pyke, Jeremy D. Maestas, Mike Pellant, Chad S. Boyd, Steven B. Campbell, Shawn Espinosa, Douglas W. Havlina, Kenneth E. Mayer, and Amarina Wuenschel

Resilience to Disturbance & Resistance to Invasive Annual Grasses

Warm-Dry ← → Cold-Moist

Productivity & Fuels

Wyoming big sagebrush

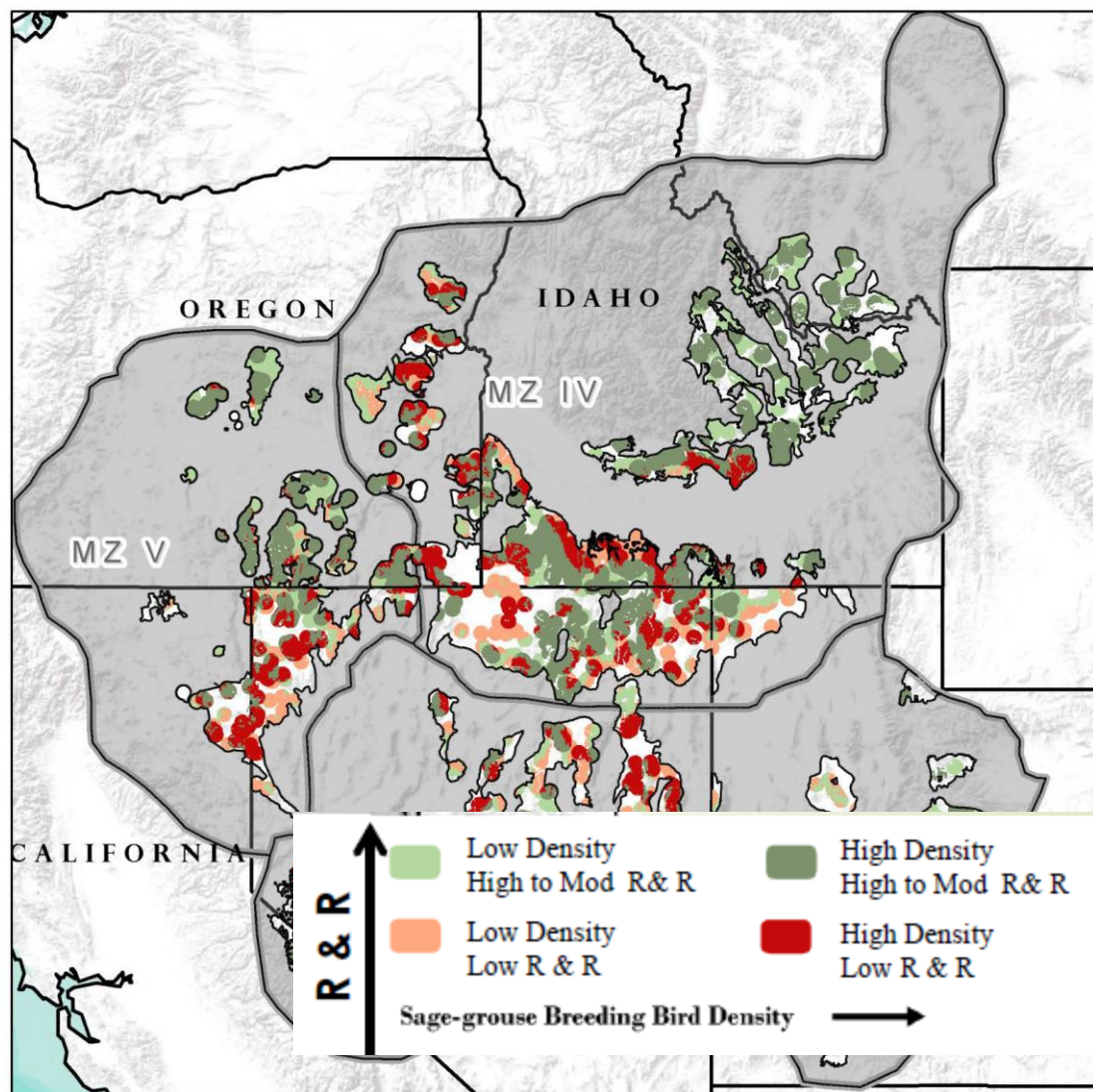
Mountain big sagebrush

Mountain big sagebrush/mountain brush

U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station General Technical Report RMRS-GTR-326 September 2014

Common Science Framework

- Identifies threats
- Provides geospatial products to inform treatment priorities
- Encourages collaborative, 5-year program of work with partners



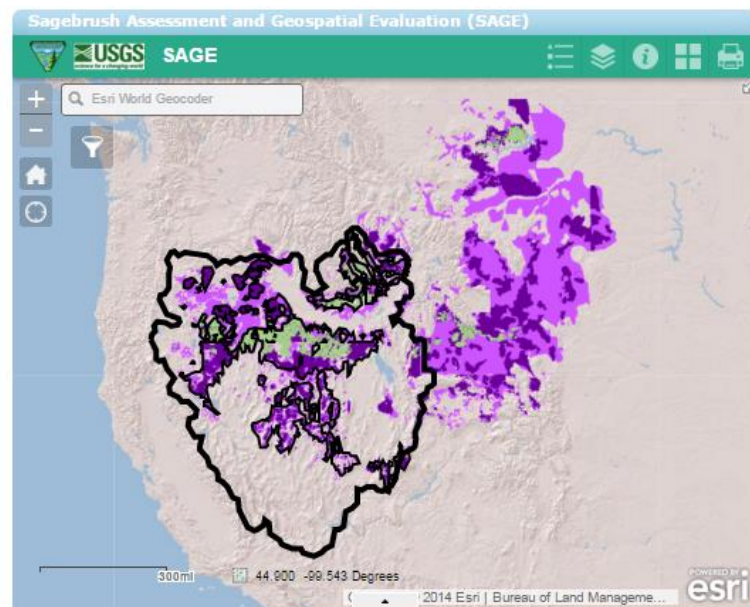
Geospatial Portal



Integrated Rangeland Fire Management Strategy Geospatial Framework (Secretarial Order 3336)

The **Integrated Rangeland Fire Management Strategy** sets in motion actions to enhance the protection, conservation, and restoration of a healthy sagebrush-steppe ecosystem, and to address important public safety, economic, cultural, and social concerns. An Integrated Rangeland Fire Management Strategy (the Strategy) is intended to improve the efficiency and efficacy of actions to address rangeland fire, to better prevent and suppress rangeland fire, and improve efforts to restore fire-impacted landscapes. For this reason, the Strategy relies, in part, on the Fire and Invasive Assessment Tool (FIAT) to assess the major threats to the sagebrush-steppe in order to conserve the greater sage-grouse and its habitat. "Resilience" and "resistance" to rangeland fire is the basis of FIAT.

The published Secretarial Order 3336 reports, related data layers, and maps can be found in this portal. Use the search box to the right to find SO3336 products or use the keyword "SO3336" on the Search All or Browse All pages list above.



Resources

Click on the links below to find SO3336 resources

- [SO3336 Downloadable Data](#)
- [SO3336 Dynamic Map Services](#)
- [SO3336 Documents](#)

Or enter a keyword in the Search Box below

To search only SO3336 follow this example:
isPartOf:RFSO AND Sage-Grouse

or [Browse](#) by SO3336 Category

Featured Documents

Download SO3336 documents below

Secretarial Order Number 3336, Rangeland Fire Prevention, Management, and Restoration
The Initial Report: A Strategic Plan for Addressing Rangeland Fire Prevention, Management, and Restoration in 2015
The Final Report: An Integrated Rangeland Fire Management Strategy
National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy Website

- Data catalog
- Viewer
- Analysis tools

FY2016 Sage-Grouse Program Of Work Locations



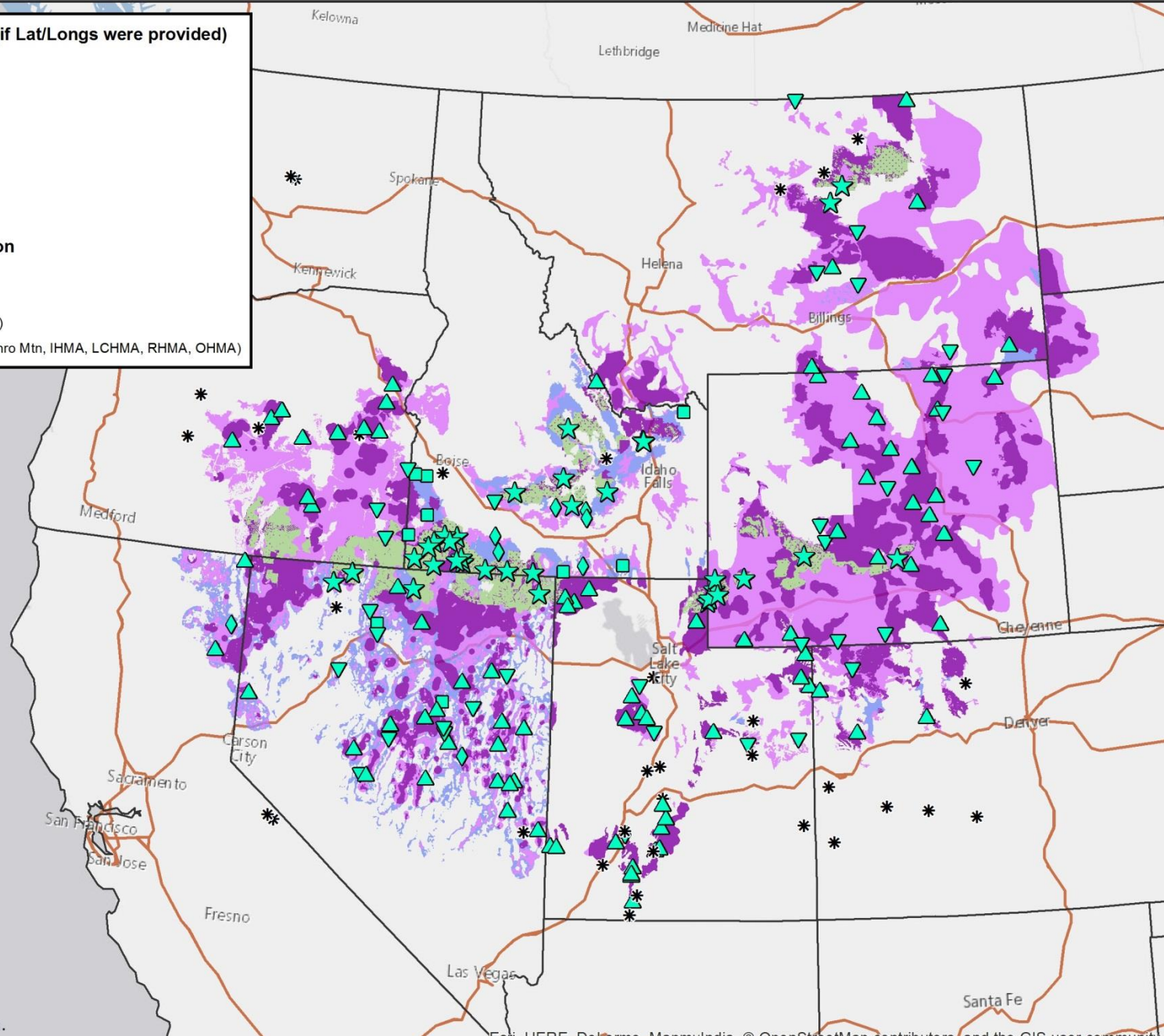
FY2016 Program Of Work Locations (if Lat/Longs were provided)

by Habitat or Project

- ★ SFA (35)
- ▲ PHMA (106)
- ◆ FIAT (9)
- ▼ GHMA (34)
- Additional HMAs (10)
- * Project (37)

BLM Greater Sage-Grouse Designation

- Sagebrush Focal Area
- Priority Habitat Management Area (PHMA)
- General Habitat Management Area (GHMA)
- Additional Habitat Management Areas (Anthro Mtn, IHMA, LCHMA, RHMA, OHMA)



September 2016

No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.



REPORTING AND ADAPTING

Adaptive management
Tracking implementation
2020 status review

Resource Management Plan Effectiveness and Implementation (IM 2016-139)

- Status and trend of land health
 - Condition of upland, aquatic, riparian, and wetland resources (including seeps and springs)
 - Status of resource objectives (including habitats)
 - Based on common indicators and consistent data (published)
 - Utilizes West-wide sample design
 - Reports generated at multiple scales
- Track implementation actions

Gunnison and Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Assessment Policy (IM 2016-144)

- Habitat Assessment
 - Include all seasonal habitats and multiple scales
 - Biologically based—not allotment based
 - Indicator values based on site potential
 - Preponderance of evidence—no one indicator value
 - Hiding cover is key—not about grass height
- Report
 - Identifies threats and limiting habitat
 - Identifies areas to establish causation

Land Use Plan Adaptive Management Hard and Soft Triggers (IM 2016-143)

- Adaptive management
 - Soft triggers implemented at the project level and augmenting best management practices
 - Hard triggers implemented at the plan level and change allocation decisions
 - Outlines timelines for public notification
 - BLM will coordinate with state and federal agencies to validate that a trigger has or has not been tripped
 - If an event causes a significant habitat or population loss (e.g., wildfire), the loss data should be analyzed as soon as possible after the event occurs.



2020 STATUS REVIEW

Coordination-Collaboration-Communication

Monitoring and Reporting

- Track implementation
- Collect data at the correct scale, time, and location—AIM Strategy
- Adaptive Management IM
- Effectiveness Monitoring IM

Diffuse Uses

- Land Health Assessments
- WH&B gathers in SFA
- Determine causal factor
- Grazing Prioritization IM
- Thresholds and Responses IM

2020 Status Review

Discrete Uses

- Mineral withdrawal in SFA
- Issue mitigation MS and HB
- Complete the framework and strategy
- Prioritizing O&G Leasing IM
- Tracking Disturbances IM

C&R

- SO 3336—Fire, Invasive Species, and Plant Materials
- Science framework and geospatial platform
- Implement actions to reduce threats
- 5-Year Program of Work IM

FWS Status 2020 Review



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

2020 Greater Sage-grouse Status Review

Why is the Service reviewing the status of the greater sage-grouse in 2020?

Fulfilling our Commitment
In our 2015 not-warranted finding for greater sage-grouse, we committed to review the status of the species in five years to help monitor threats; response of sage-grouse to those threats; evaluate conservation actions; guide adaptive management; improve management within the sagebrush ecosystem; and finally, identify research needs. Our 2020 review will assess whether our collective efforts to conserve sage-grouse are moving in the right direction since our 2015 finding. In particular, our review will help ground truth the full and timely implementation of recently completed sage-grouse conservation plans, which were foundational to our 2015 not-warranted finding. Our review will also help inform whether a formal re-visitation of our 2015 finding and the regulatory status of the species is necessary.

Monitoring improves management
The more we know about the status and trends of a species, the better we can manage it. Monitoring provides us this information and is a critical component of strategic habitat conservation. By monitoring the success of our conservation planning and delivery efforts, we can implement adaptive management strategies to help ensure success. Given the frequency of our previous reviews, we believe that five years is a reasonable timeline for evaluating our progress in conserving the greater sage-grouse and its habitats to ensure that we are on the right track (recognizing that actual biological trends will take longer to discern).

Following on our 2015 not warranted finding for greater sage-grouse, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with partners on a "2020 status review" to evaluate the effectiveness of sage-grouse conservation plans and related measures in securing the conservation of the species.

Tilliana Cottelwood/FWS

What is the Service looking for when it reviews the status of greater sage-grouse in 2020?


We are looking for any information that will help us and our partners understand what has changed for the greater sage-grouse since the implementation of the range-wide conservation efforts. Building on previous and ongoing work, our review will help evaluate the success of the conservation actions to help ensure that conservation efforts continue to benefit sage-grouse into the future. Some of the questions we will consider include (see Attachment 1):

Implementation of the regulatory plans and other conservation efforts
Were the federal greater sage-grouse plans and other efforts implemented as planned and did they effectively reduce threats to the greater sage-grouse and its habitat?

- Have the rates of disturbance or habitat loss changed?
- Did the conservation efforts direct disturbances away from important areas for sage-grouse?
- Did project proponents first avoid and minimize impacts, and then appropriately offset unavoidable disturbances?

New science
What new information exists regarding the species and its conservation? How have the distribution, abundance, or population trends of sage-grouse changed?

Status of potential threats
How have the magnitude, intensity, and frequency of potential threats to the sage-grouse changed?




1. Implementation of the plans and other conservation efforts

- Have rates of disturbance or habitat loss changed?
- Did efforts direct disturbance away from habitat?
- Did projects mitigate?

2. New science

3. Status of threats

Have potential threats changed?



MITIGATION

Mitigation Framework

Mitigation Strategy

Policy and Handbook

Greater Sage-Grouse Mitigation

VISION:

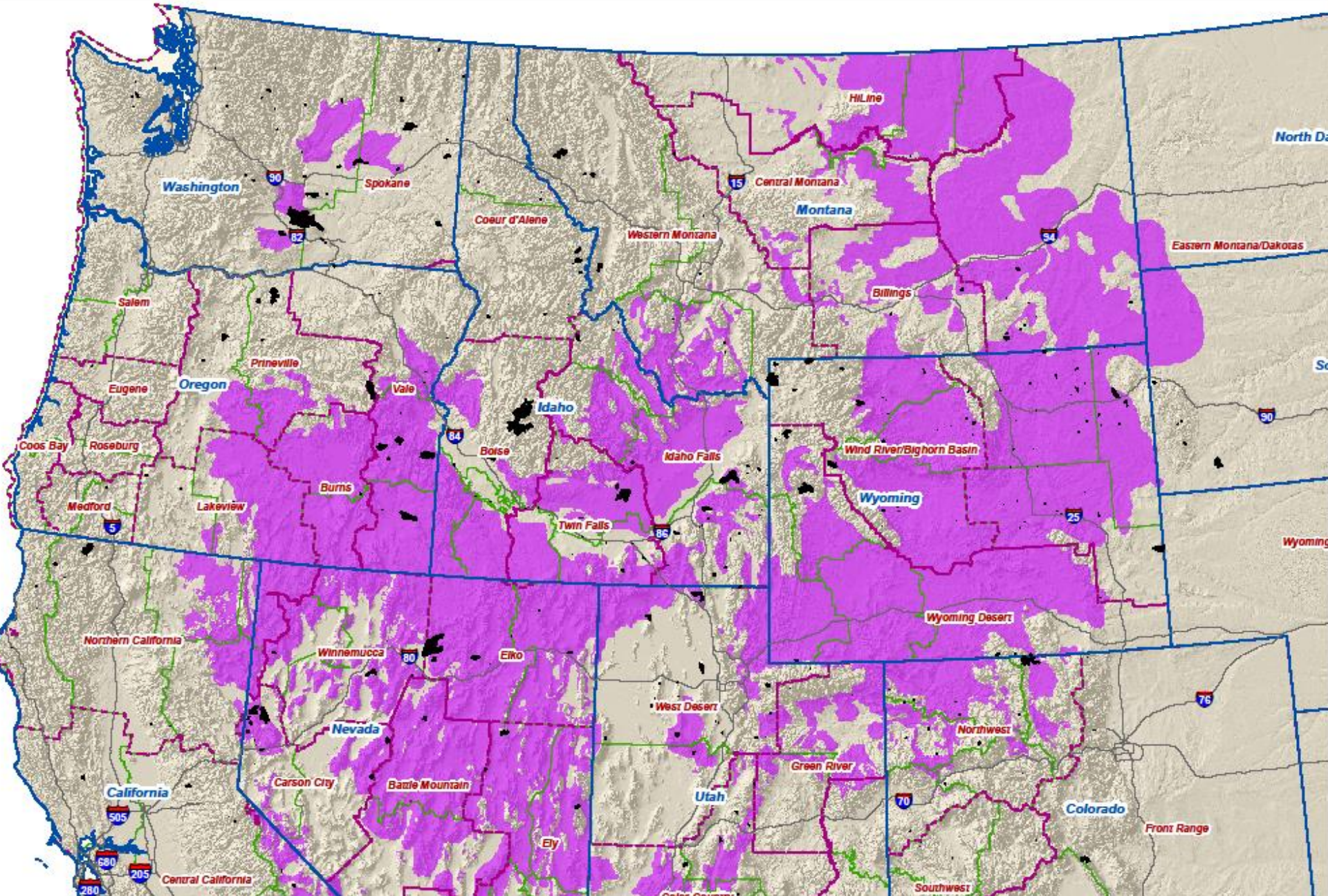
- States are developing mitigation approaches (i.e., credit exchanges, banks, in lieu fee)
- BLM and FWS “certify” state mitigation processes through MOU
- Analyze state credits to provide compensatory mitigation for BLM projects
- Establish a performance evaluation team to monitor effectiveness of compensatory mitigation
- Use WAFWA zones to identify compensatory mitigation opportunities

Greater Sage-Grouse Mitigation

PROCESS:

- Working with the Sage-grouse Task Force (state governments) to ensure some consistency across state lines since Jan 2016
- Seeking agreement on key principles to guide effective mitigation
- Draft Report on Compensatory Mitigation Principles in review by team members
- Report to GRSG Task Force, Dec 2016

2016 FIRE UPDATE



2016 Large Fires as of September 1

2016 Fire Metrics

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY	GRSG Acres Burned	SFA Acres Burned	Non-GRSG Acres Burned
Bureau of Indian Affairs	30,239	0	71,355
Bureau of Land Management	342,178	47,703	116,342
Fish and Wildlife Service	0	0	36,503
Forest Service	8,451	0	677,708
National Park Service	1,956	0	79,479
Private Lands	179,355	0	211,323
State Lands	23,775	0	47,108
Other Federal Lands	32,827	0	181,207
TOTAL	618,781	47,703	1,421,025

STATE	GRSG Acres Burned	SFA Acres Burned	Non-GRSG Acres Burned
California	730	0	478,178
Colorado	3,215	0	60,158
Idaho	104,793	47,555	252,697
Montana	14,316	0	55,796
Nevada	215,073	148	45,743
North Dakota	0	0	0
Oregon	110,019	0	105,214
South Dakota	0	0	23,551
Utah	32,451	0	51,611
Washington	83,310	0	200,677
Wyoming	54,874	0	146,839
TOTAL	618,781	47,703	1,421,025

BLM NEVADA SAGE GROUSE PLAN AMENDMENT IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

Matt Magaletti, BLM Nevada State Office

BLM Nevada Implementation Update

- Collaboration Training
- Working on BLM Nevada specific step-down instruction memorandum guidance (Early 2017)
- Running Plan Amendment's Adaptive Management Strategy for 2016 (December – January)
- Livestock Grazing Permittee Workshops (January 2017)
- Great Basin Fuel Breaks and Habitat Restoration Programmatic EIS (January 2017)
- Implementation Tracking and Reporting

THANK YOU
