

Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy: Status Update and Possible Impacts to Military Missions

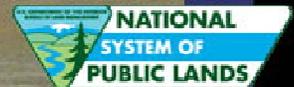
Joint Military Affairs Committee (JMAC)
NAS Fallon
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Division of Natural Resources, Lands, and Planning



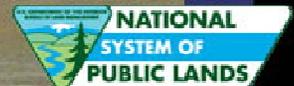
Greater Sage-Grouse Endangered Species Act Listing Status

- January 2005 - FWS issued 12-month “not warranted” finding.
- December 2007 – District Court remanded FWS decision.
- February 2010 – FWS Issued “warranted but precluded” finding making the greater sage-grouse a “candidate” for listing.
- FY 2015 – Greater Sage-Grouse final listing decision.



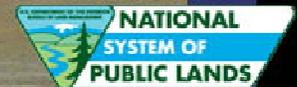
FWS Finding based on:

- Insufficient regulatory mechanisms on federal lands have not been effective at addressing threats and were identified as a major factor in “warranted but precluded” finding.
- Principal regulatory mechanism for BLM and USFS is conservation measures contained in Land Use Plans (LUPs).



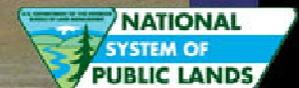
BLM Planning Approach

- Issue national policy and direction to guide interim actions and future planning.
- Incorporate regulatory mechanisms into LUPs at the sub-regional (state/multi-state) level.
- Federal Register Notice of Intent to amend Land Use Plans through sub-regional EISs issued Dec. 9, 2011.



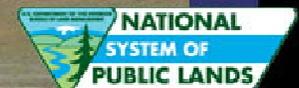
BLM National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy Objective

Develop and implement new or revised regulatory mechanisms through land use plans in order to conserve and restore greater sage-grouse and their habitats on BLM-administered and U.S. Forest Service lands, on a range-wide basis over the long-term.



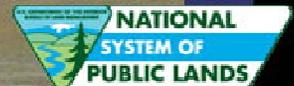
Greater Sage-Grouse Land Use Planning Effort

- Decisions will focus on occupied habitat on BLM and Forest Service lands.
- Within Priority Habitat, land use planning direction will be developed to address:
 - Minerals management
 - Lands and realty
 - Travel and transportation
 - Wild horses and burros
 - Range management
 - Vegetation management
 - Habitat restoration
 - Wildland fire management
 - **Military uses and activities**



BLM Guidance on Military Uses

- Washington Office Instruction Memoranda
 - IM 2001-030 (08 NOV 00)
 - Outlines types of uses and authorizations
 - Collaboratively developed with DoD Agencies
 - Establishes a Bureau Airspace Policy
 - IM 2001-030, Change 1 (23 JAN 02)
 - Provides priority to military authorization requests in support of Homeland Defense
 - Provides guidance for federal use of State National Guard Authorized Areas
 - Provides direction for Military uses within Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs).



Airspace Policy

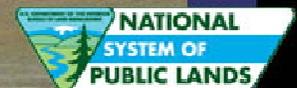
(IM 2001-030)

- When the BLM is making resource management decisions on the ground, it will consider how these decisions effect allocated airspace above these resources.
- Proponents proposing changes in allocated airspace above public lands will consider the effects of the proposed change on the public lands below the airspace.



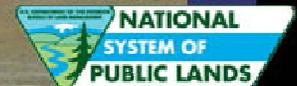
Current NV BLM/DoD Planning Guidance

- **Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR) RMP Record of Decision (July 2004)**
 - **Fish and Wildlife Management**
 - **Objective:** Support viable and diverse wildlife populations by providing and maintaining sufficient quality and quantity of food, water, cover, and space to satisfy needs of wildlife species using habitats on withdrawn lands.
 - **Management Direction:** Protect sage grouse habitat from ground disturbing activities and coordinate with appropriate state and federal agencies prior to habitat disturbance.



Current NV BLM/DoD Planning Guidance

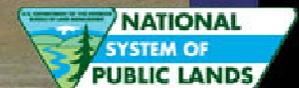
- **Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR) RMP Record of Decision (July 2004)**
 - **Special Status Species**
 - **Objective:** Manage habitats for non-listed special status species to support viable populations so that future listing would not be necessary.
 - **Management Direction:** Enter into conservation agreements with the USFWS and the State of Nevada in consultation with Air Force to reduce the necessity of future listings of species of concern.



Current NV BLM/DoD Planning Guidance

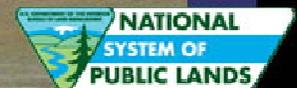
- **NTTR Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP) 2007**

- A primary goal of the INRMP is to sustain military readiness while maintaining ecosystem integrity and dynamics on NAFB and NTTR.
- It is the intent of the INRMP to support conservation of [sage grouse]on NTTR.
- Potential sage grouse habitat has been observed in the North Range in the area of the Kawich Range. Live sage grouse have been observed by NDOW in the area at the boundary between NTTR and BLM public lands on the Kawich Range, and the grouse may be inhabiting the Belted Range.
- The BLM RMP recommends minimizing impacts to sage grouse habitat, but does not provide a means to identify or map the habitat.



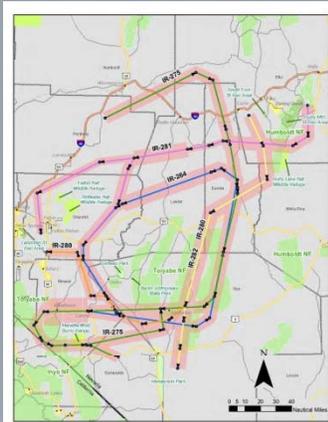
Current NV BLM/DoD Planning Guidance

- **NAS Fallon Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP) 2001**
 - **BLM:** BLM and NDOW will coordinate to assess the potential for sage grouse habitat within the Management Area.
 - **Navy:** The Navy manages for the protection and enhancement of wildlife and habitat where possible, per Navy regulation and policy and the Sikes Act, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 16 USC 2901, the Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (Public Law 65-186), the Neotropical Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the Bald Eagle Protection Act. This includes analysis of impacts from ground disturbing activities.



Types of Military Activities on or over Public lands

- Use of Military Training Routes (MTRs).
- Travis AFB C-17 EA April 2012



Types of Military Activities on or over Public lands

- Use of Military Operating Areas (MOAs) and Special Use Areas (SUAs).



Types of Military Activities on or over Public lands

- Low Level Flight Operations (manned/unmanned)



Types of Military Activities on or over Public lands

- Training (CSAR, orienteering, tactics, survival)



Types of Military Activities on or over Public lands

- Electronic Warfare (EW) Sites (mobile or fixed)



Types of Military Activities on or over Public lands

- Chaff and Flare deployment



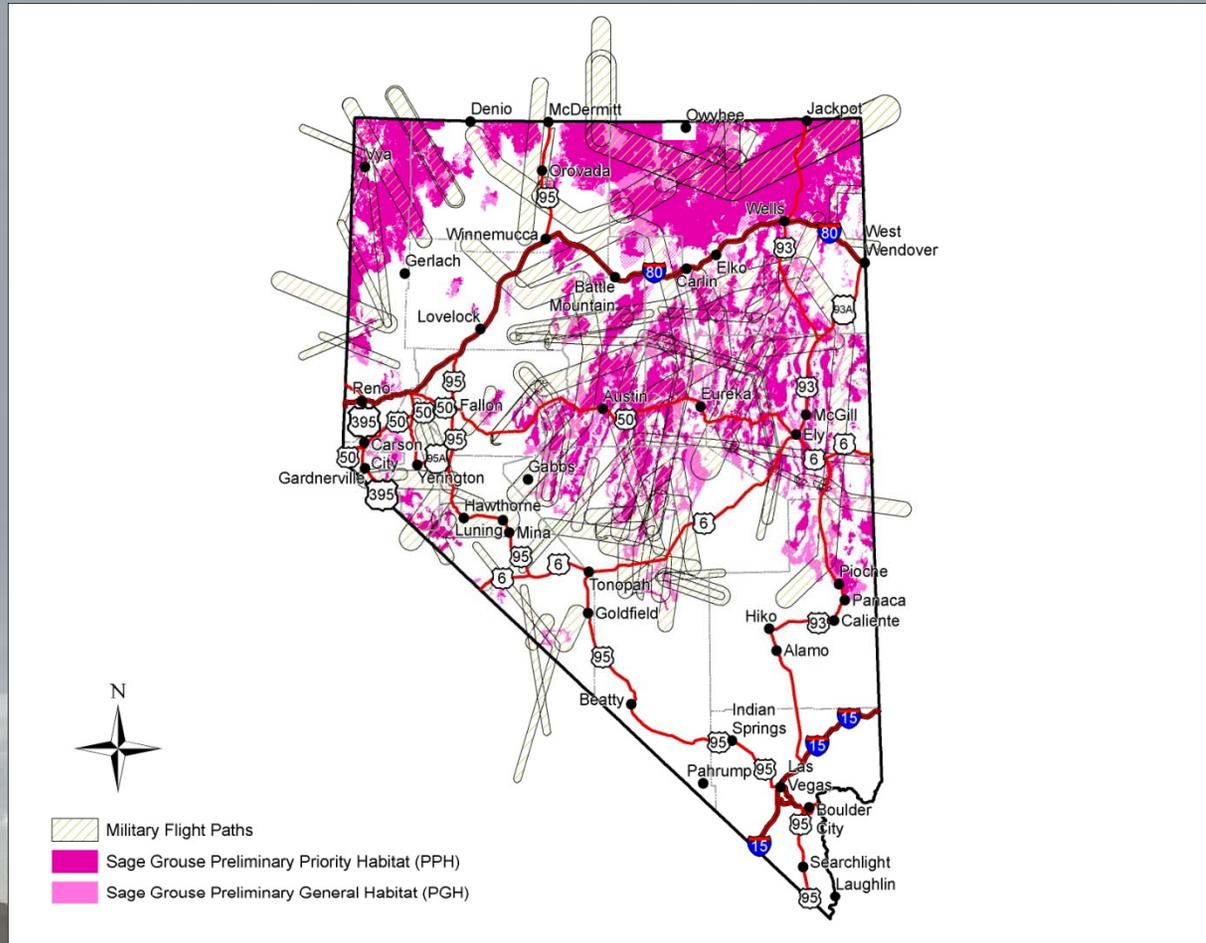
Types of Military Activities on or over Public lands

- Incident Sites

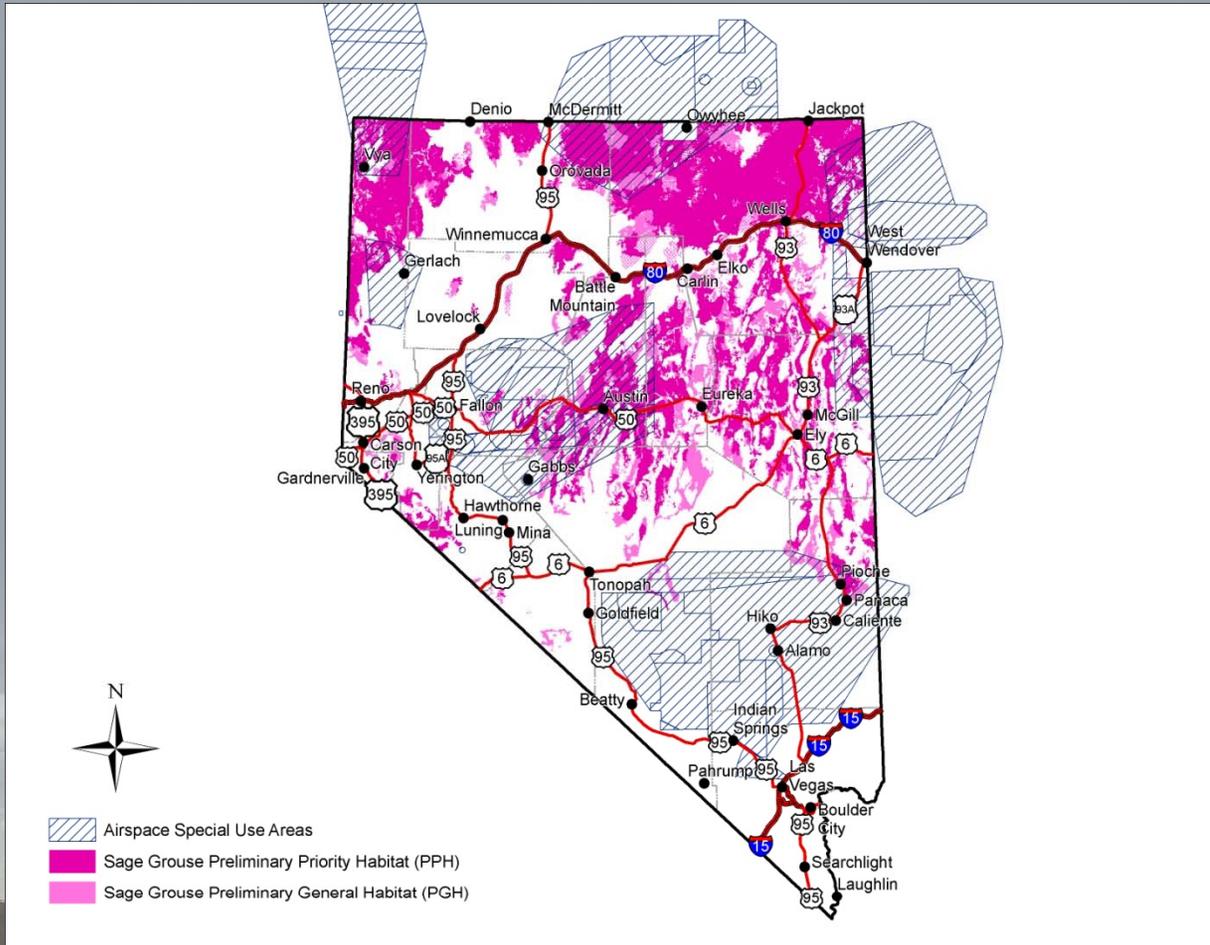
- Security
- Recovery
- Natural resource damage
- Clean-up and Rehabilitation



MTRs and Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat



SUAs and Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat



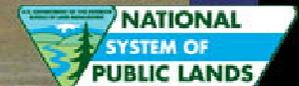
Short-Term Actions: NE CA-NV Sub-Region

- Complete development of Sub-regional Alternative goals, objectives and management actions.
- Complete development of the Range of Alternatives
- Determine the spatial component for:
 - Proposed Priority and General Habitat, based on biology and management uses.
 - Potential Sage-grouse habitat ACECs.
- Finalize cooperating agency relationships.



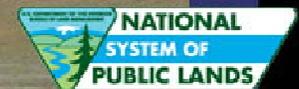
Project Timeline

Action	When
Establish all teams (NPT, NTT, RMTs, RIDTs, and SIDTs)	September 2011
Issue national interim policy (Instruction Memorandum)	December 27, 2011
Publish Notice of Intent to amend land use plans	December 9, 2011
Public scoping complete	March 23, 2012
Draft EISs published	Estimate April 2013
Final EISs published	Estimate Nov/Dec 2013
Records of Decision signed	Estimate May-September 2014



Structure of Involvement

- Cooperating Agency relationship is established through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by both parties. MOUs sent to interested federal, tribal, state agencies, and counties with greater sage grouse habitat on July 13th and 19th, 2012.
- The relationship for this planning effort will be mostly structured around reviews of documents and briefings as necessary to keep informed of progress and issues.
- Review timeframes will be short and dictated by the project schedule.



Opportunities for Involvement

- Regular updates, briefings, video and/or teleconference calls, WebEx.
- Review of maps and spatial data used to delineate priority habitat and make planning decisions.
- Early reviews of range of alternatives and internal drafts (pre-decisional) of the analysis documents prior to public release.

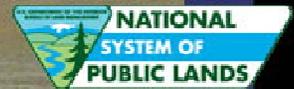




*Thank you for your Service, Dedication, and
Professionalism in maintaining and defending our
Nation's Freedom and Security.*



Thank you!



BLM Greater Sage Grouse Websites

BLM National website:

<http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/sagegrouse.html>

BLM Great Basin Region:

<http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/sagegrouse/western.html>

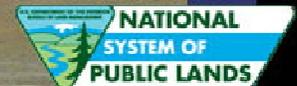
BLM Rocky Mountain Region:

<http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/sagegrouse/eastern.html>

BLM Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy Nevada-NE California Sub-Region:

Available on the ePlanning Land Use Planning Register (Select Nevada, then click the Search button)

https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/lup/lup_register.do



Contact Information

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