



United States Department of Agriculture

Public Participation Strategy

For Considering the 2015 Greater Sage-grouse Plans for:

- **Idaho**, Boise, Caribou-Targhee, Salmon-Challis, and Sawtooth National Forests and Curlew National Grassland);
- **Nevada** (Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest);
- **Utah** (Ashley, Dixie, Fishlake, Manti-La Sal, and Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forests);
- **Wyoming** (Bridger-Teton National Forest); and
- **Wyoming/Colorado** (Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest and Thunder Basin National Grassland).



Forest Service

Intermountain Region

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Introduction

Purpose of This Strategy

The intent of this strategy is to outline the outreach methods and timing (FSH1909.12, 40) of public participation throughout the planning, NEPA and objection process in developing the Amendments to Land Management Plans for Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation. The purpose of public involvement is to offer meaningful participation from the early phases of planning through finalization of the plan amendments and subsequent monitoring.

This strategy has been designed to assist with communication within the Forest Service (internal audience) and between the Forest Service and the public (external audience). This document should be considered a “living document” as it may be updated as information changes (such as contact information or as activities are completed or new ones are identified).

Public Participation Objectives

The term “public” used in this document is a broad term that includes private citizens but also local, state, regional and national government entities, federally recognized Indian Tribes or Native Alaska Corporations, formal collaborative groups, cooperating agencies, special interest groups, community groups, and others.

The objectives of this strategy are to ensure that Forest Service employees, Interior West States, stakeholders and permittees understand the latest steps the Forest Service is taking to address the management and conservation of greater sage-grouse and sagebrush ecosystems. It also supports the efforts that DOI is undertaking for Sage-grouse Conservation and cooperation with Western states.

This Public Participation Strategy will provide guidance to the interdisciplinary team and each Responsible Official (Regional Foresters) regarding the methods for public involvement and outreach at key points in the planning process. This will help to ensure that the level of effort to inform and involve the public is consistent with the scale and importance of the proposed actions and degree of interest. The objective is to deliver concise, consistent messages regarding the plan amendment process and how to engage the public in the process. This strategy will be updated as needed to reflect shifting personnel, roles, issues and timeframes.

Incorporating Public Input into this Strategy

This Public Participation Strategy reflects a continuation of public outreach that has occurred since the Greater Sage-grouse Records of Decision were signed in September of 2015. The Forest Service will continue to utilize existing communication methods (see Appendix D – Communication Tools) to network with the public and to solicit feedback on this strategy to help ensure that the appropriate tools are being used in the most effective manner.

As the agency enters each phase of the plan amendment and NEPA process, feedback on the public participation aspect will remain iterative; it is important to recognize the need for feedback and periodic adjustments to the strategy over time.

Responsible Official Roles and Responsibilities in Public Participation

The responsible officials who would sign the Record of Decision to approve new plan amendments are the Regional Foresters in Regions 2 and 4:

Brian Ferebee - Region 2 (Rocky Mountain Region)

Nora Rasure - Region 4 (Intermountain Region)

Their responsibilities include determining the scope and scale of opportunities for public participation, balancing available resources and scheduling constraints with public engagement needs (FSH 1909.12_42). The Forest Service retains decision-making authority and responsibility for all decisions throughout the process (36 CFR 219.4(a)).

Public Involvement Sideboards and Management Plan

The Forest Service Greater Sage-grouse Records of Decision were signed on September 16, 2015 and can be found here:

- Record of Decision for Idaho, Southwest Montana, Nevada and Utah
https://origin-fs.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd567901.pdf
- Record of Decision for Northwest Colorado and Wyoming
https://origin-fs.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd567900.pdf

Since the plans have been in effect, new issues have been identified during informal public comments and in meetings with state representatives (especially the Western Governors' Association Sage-Grouse Task Force) and as the Forest Service interacted with the Bureau of Land Management as it implemented its sage-grouse plans. To understand potential issues, the Forest Service issued a Notice of Intent (NOI) on November 21, 2017 that provided the public with an opportunity to identify the preliminary need for change to the 2015 RODs: <https://www.federalregister.gov/citation/82-FR-55346>. In the NOI, the public was encouraged to help identify any issues, management questions, or concerns that should be addressed in plan amendment(s) or through policy or administrative action. A second Supplemental NOI to amend the GRSR ROD/Forest Plan Amendments was published in the Federal Register on 6/20/18 (with a correction, removing references to lands in Montana, published on July 2).

The intent of any potential changes to the 2015 Records of Decision would be to use new understanding and information to improve the clarity, efficiency, and effectiveness of the current plan language and not to completely revise or replace current plans. The Forest Service recognizes that issues vary by ecoregion and state and therefore potential changes could vary based on geographical location. It is also recognized that issues within each state may be addressed through other means, including policy, training or administrative changes,

Stakeholders

The internal audience primarily includes those employees engaged in implementation of the greater sage grouse plans such as forest supervisors, district rangers, range conservationists, sage grouse program coordinators and other program staff (minerals/recreation-special uses/wildlife biologists).

The external audience includes private citizens but also local, state, regional and national government entities, federally recognized Indian Tribes or Native Alaska Corporations, formal collaborative groups, cooperating agencies, special interest groups and community groups. It is recognized that each state and forest has different stakeholders and differences in the level of public and internal interest. Appendix B identifies expected initial stakeholders and contacts, but the list will require revision through time to aid communication with various interested or affected parties.

In providing opportunities for engagement, the Forest Service will encourage participation by:

- (i) Interested individuals and entities, including those interested at the local, regional, and national levels.
- (ii) Youth, low-income populations, and minority populations.
- (iii) Private landowners whose lands are in, adjacent to, or otherwise affected by, or whose actions may impact, future management actions in the plan area.
- (iv) Federal agencies, States, counties, and local governments, including State fish and wildlife agencies, State foresters and other relevant State agencies.
- (v) Interested or affected federally recognized Indian Tribes or Alaska Native Corporations.

Summary of the Plan Amendment Process

There are two phases to a plan amendment process: I. Amendment Phase and II. The Monitoring Phase, both of which include public participation.

Phase I began with the release of a NOI on November 21, 2017 that provided the public with an opportunity to identify the preliminary need for change to the 2015 RODs: <https://www.federalregister.gov/citation/82-FR-55346>. A second Supplemental NOI to amend the GRSG ROD/Forest Plan Amendments was published in the Federal Register on 6/20/18 (with a correction, removing references to lands in Montana, published on July 2).

In the first NOI, the public was encouraged to help identify any issues, management questions, or concerns that should be addressed in plan amendment(s) or policy or administrative action. Over 51,000 comments were received from which the need for change was identified. An Executive Summary of those comments was prepared in March 2018 and has been posted on Forest Service Regional websites: <https://origin-fs.fs.usda.gov/main/r4/home>. The official comment period for the second Supplemental NOI ended on August 15, 2018 and approximately 8700 comments were received. The majority of the comments received were form letters and approximately 400 comments

were considered “unique”. An Executive Summary of those comments was also posted to the Intermountain website:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r4/home/?cid=stelprd3843381>

Phase I includes formal public comment periods but will also include communication with affected state governments and other agencies (e.g., Bureau of Land Management) to discuss and receive feedback on issues and proposed actions. As a non-listed species, greater sage-grouse are managed by each state, so meetings with state representatives will help to ensure accurate understanding of potential issues.

Public participation during Phase II (monitoring phase) will provide the opportunity for the public to gain a shared sense of ownership as plan effectiveness is monitored. No changes to the current monitoring plan are expected, but yearly reports will continue to be posted on line at: <https://www.fs.fed.us/science-technology/fish-wildlife-plants/sage-grouse/implementation-guide>.

How to Use this Strategy

This public participation strategy is developed as a tool and a resource for the Forest Service but also as a tool and a resource for the public involved in assisting the Forest Service with the plan amendments.

For the Public, State, Local and Tribal Governments

Readers can use this strategy to understand and anticipate key steps in the planning process, including upcoming opportunities for public participation, and how public input will be used as the planning process progresses. The [Citizen's Guide to National Forest Planning](#) is an additional source of information to better understand the relationship of this document to the forest amendment process. A separate document, [State, Local and Tribal Governments Guide to National Forest Planning](#) is also a good source of reference for tribal governments and other state and local government agencies.

For the Forest Service

This Public Involvement Strategy will provide guidance to the project interdisciplinary team and each Responsible Official (Regional Foresters) regarding the methods for public involvement and outreach at key points in the planning process. Table 1 below is a list of primary contacts during this greater sage-grouse plan process.

Points of Contact

The following table lists primary points of contact in each state for this communications strategy.

Table 1. Primary points of contact

Name	Title	Phone Number & Email Address
Forest Service Leadership		
Nora Rasure	Regional Forester, Intermountain Region	p: 801-625-5605 nrasure@fs.fed.us
Brian Ferebee	Regional Forester, Rocky Mountain Region	p: 303-275-5450 bferebee@fs.fed.us
Jacque Buchanan	Deputy Regional Forester, Rocky Mountain Region	p: 303-275-5452 jbuchanan@fs.fed.us
Sage-Grouse Planning and State Coordination		
John Shivik	National Sage-grouse Coordinator	p: 801-625-5667 johnshivik@fs.fed.us
Jennifer Purvine	IDT Leader	p: 208-879-4162 jpurvine@fs.fed.us
Amy Barker	IDT	p: 801-718-7651 abarker@fs.fed.us
Andy Brunelle	Idaho Capitol City Coordinator (State Liaison)	p: 208-334-1770 abrunelle@fs.fed.us
John Hagenruber	Montana Capitol City Coordinator (State Liaison)	p: 406-444-4490 jhagenruber@fs.fed.us
Cheva Gabor	Nevada Capitol City Coordinator (State Liaison)	p: 775-224-2777 chevalgabor@fs.fed.us
Susie Tracy	Utah Capitol City Coordinator (State Liaison)	c: 385-368-1778 susannetracy@fs.fed.us
Sandy Underhill	Wyoming Capitol City Coordinator (State Liaison)	p: 307-777-6087 sandraunderhill@fs.fed.us
Jeff Sorkin	Colorado Capitol City Coordinator (State Liaison)	p: 303-275-5759 jsorkin@fs.fed.us

Summary of Public Involvement Activities – Action Plan and Timeline

This section describes the key public involvement activities, outcomes, and timing during the possible planning process. Additional information is included in Appendices.

Project Initiation/ Proposal Development	Initiation	Completion
Scoping Notice of Intent (NOI) published	11/21/2017	11/21/2017
Scoping comment period	11/21/2017	1/19/2018
Comment coding	1/19/2018	2/09/2018
Comment analysis	2/20/2018	3/21/2018
Scoping report/ executive summary	3/21/2018	3/26/2018
Tribal consultation	6//4/2018	1/17/19 or TBD
Identify need and scope for change, develop proposed action(s)	4/03/2018	6/15/2018
Purpose and Need and Proposed Actions Supplemental NOI published		6/20/2018
Scoping period (30 days). (Corrected NOI published on 7/02/2018 with a 14 day extension of the official scoping period)	7/02/2018	8/15/2018
Prepare DEIS	6/21/2018	9/15/2018
Publish DEIS, 90 day comment period	10/05/2018	01/03/2019
Comment Analysis	01/04/2019	2/4/2019
FEIS, Draft ROD		2/15/2019
NEPA Documents- objection period (60 days)	2/15/2019	4/16/2019
Sign Documents (no objections)		4/22 – 5/06/2019
Sign Documents (objections)		07/12/2019

*Scale of NEPA Environmental Impact Statements). Reported timeframes assume EISs and associated comment periods.

Monitoring

No changes are expected to the current monitoring plan. That is, to satisfy the monitoring requirements of greater sage-grouse plans, Region 4, in collaboration with Region 2, will continue to collect required information from various sources, with particularly close cooperation with the BLM. Monitoring documents will be updated annually and will build into a comprehensive report for the Fish and Wildlife Service review in 2020.

How this Strategy will be Updated

This strategy will be adapted over time so identified processes are improved upon when needed. Input from partners, stakeholders and at-large public or external factors will be considered in making changes to the strategy.

Appendix A: Public Participation Requirements Checklist

Note that this example assumes a forest plan revision using an EIS so not all items listed are applicable for the purposes of the sage grouse amendment process

Public Participation Strategy

- Develop public participation strategy with the full planning team and others as needed
- Draft public participation strategy – make draft available for public feedback¹ (use existing collaboratives where possible)
- Vet the public participation strategy with the national forest leadership team and responsible officials
- Finalize the first version of the strategy by having the Forest Supervisor sign it and then make it publicly available
- Periodically update the strategy as new information is gained, repeating steps 4-7 above, as needed

Administrative Changes, Guidance Documents, or Plan Amendment Development

- Initiate the development of a proposed action (forest plan revision or amendment) including the preliminary need to change (Federal Register notice) – Accept and document public feedback⁴ on the draft and use feedback to draft plan components
- Review land use and management plans of other governments/agencies, per 219.4(b)(2) and from FSH 1909.12 chapter 20. Consult or coordinate with other state, local, and federal agencies, tribes and Native Alaska Corporations and formally invite them to participate as cooperating agencies
- Suitability of Public Lands – Include public participation opportunities
- Best Available Scientific Information – Gather public feedback regarding the accuracy, reliability, and relevance of scientific information used for development of the plan (plan components and monitoring)
- Develop potential plan components and other plan content including monitoring – Include the public prior to drafting plan components in order to earn support, particularly for controversial topics

NEPA Requirements

- Publish Notice of intent including the draft forest plan amendment and updated need to change (Federal Register Notice – 30-45 days) – Option to combine your notice of initiation with the initiation of public scoping
- Ensure that the objection process and what constitutes objector eligibility is described in any notices or other public materials used to initiate this designated public scoping comment opportunity; be clear that this designated public comment period will be used to establish eligibility to object later based on the submittal of substantive formal comments

- Cooperating agency review and tribal consultation
- Scoping Results – Inform the public of scoping results
- Develop alternatives and draft environmental impact statement
- Notice of availability of draft forest plan and draft environmental impact statement (Federal Register Notice sent to EPA - 90 day comment period; or 30 days in the newspaper of record for an environmental assessment or categorical exclusion)
- Ensure that the objection process and what constitutes objector eligibility is described in any notices or other public materials used to initiate this designated public comment opportunity on the draft Plan and draft EIS; be clear that this designated public comment period will be used to establish eligibility to object later based on the submittal of substantive formal comments
- Notice of availability of final environmental impact statement and draft record of decision, initiating the objection filing period

Pre-Decisional Objection Process

- Objection filing period (Federal Register Notice and notice to eligible public - 60 days for EIS and 45 days for EA)
- Publish and post notice of eligible objections received (newspaper of record and website - 10 days)
- Objection review. Conduct an independent review of eligible objections and possible resolution of objection issues; hold objection resolution meetings, as needed or desired. Issue written response to objections (90 days; can be extended)
- Issue final forest plan and final record of decision, that is consistent with instructions provided in the written response to objection (Federal Register notice)
- Begin implementation – 30 days

Monitoring

- Monitoring Implementation – develop opportunities for public participation in monitoring when possible
- Monitoring results – Plan monitoring report must be made publicly available and provide opportunity for feedback. Documented results for broader-scale monitoring (five year) must be made publicly available.
- Amend or revise plan components or administrative change – If the results of monitoring indicate there is a need to amend or revise plan components, public participation will follow NEPA requirements including providing a notice to the public of the intended change and consideration of public comment. All other administrative changes may be made following a public notice.

Appendix B: State, Congressional and Stakeholder Contacts

Regional Foresters, Forest Supervisors and State Liaisons will be responsible for initiating the contacts in each individual state according to the established protocols set by each respective Regional Forester.

Office	Name	Email	Phone
Wyoming Governor's Office	Mike McGrady, Policy Advisor	mike.mcgrady1@wyo.gov	307-777-2083
	Bob Budd, Wildlife and Natural Resources Executive Director	bob.budd@wyo.gov	307-777-8024
Wyoming Game and Fish Department	Scott Talbott-Director	scott.talbott@wyo.gov	307-777-4501
	Scott Smith – Deputy Director	scott.smith1@wyo.gov	307-777-4501
Wyoming Department of Agriculture	Doug Miyamoto-Director	doug.miyamoto@wyo.gov	307-777-6569
	Chris Wichmann-Natural Resource Manager	chris.wichmann@wyo.gov	307-777-6576
Wyoming Office of State Lands and Investments	Bridget Hill-Director	Bridget.hill1@wyo.gov	307-777-6629
	Susan Child-Deputy Director	Susan.child@wyo.gov	307-777-3428
Wyoming State Forestry	Bill Crapser-State Forester	Bill.crapser@wyo.gov	307-777-5644
	Josh VanVlack – Assistant Forester	josh.vanvlack@wyo.gov	307-777-5662
Wyoming Stock Growers Association	Jim Magagna- Executive Vice President	jim@wysga.org	307-638-3942
Wyoming County Commissioners Association	Pete Obermueller - Executive Director	pobermueller@wyo-wcca.org	307-632-5409
	Bailey Schreiber, Natural Resources Counsel	bschreiber@wyo-wcca.org	307- 632-5409
Senator John Barrasso	Travis McNiven	Travis_McNiven@Barrasso.senate.gov	307-362-5012
Senator Michael Enzi (Cody Office)	Karen McCreery , State Director	Karen_McCreery@enzi.senate.gov	307-527-9444 307-272-7680 (c)
Rep. Liz Cheney (Cheyenne Office)	Tammy Hooper, State Director	Tammy.hooper@mail.house.gov	307-772-2595
		Holly.Heussner@mail.house.gov	

	Holly Heussner, WO Legislative Assistant		
BLM State Office	Marty Griffith or Mike Abel	mgriffit@blm.gov mabel@blm.gov	307-775-6256
NRCS	Brian Jensen, State Biologist	Brian.M.Jensen@wy.usda.gov	307-233-6740

Office	Name	Email	Phone
Utah Governor's Office	Kathleen Clark-Director of the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office	kathleenclark@utah.gov	801-537-9801
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources	Mike Fowlkes-Director	mikefowlks@utah.gov	801-538-4708
Utah Department of Natural Resources	Michael Styler-Director	mikestyler@utah.gov	801-538-7201
	Darin Bird-Deputy Director	darinbird@utah.gov	801-538-7201
	Nathan Schwebach- Communications Director	nathanschwebach@utah.gov	801-538-7203
Rep. Rob Bishop 324 25 th Street #1017 Ogden, UT 84401	John Newhall	John.newhall@mail.house.gov	801-625-0107
Rep. Mia Love 9076 South 1300 West South Jordan, UT 84088	Barry McLarren	barry.mclarren@mail.house.gov	801-486-1236
Rep. Chris Stewart 136 East South Temple, Suite 900 Salt Lake City, UT 84111	Gary Webster	Gary.webster@mail.house.gov	801-367-6644 801-367-6644
Sen. Mike Lee Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building 125 South State Suite 4225 Salt Lake City, UT 84138	Ryan Wilcox, Northern Utah Area Director	ryan_wilcox@lee.senate.gov	801-392-9633
Sen. Orrin Hatch 51 South University Avenue, #320	Ron Dean, Eastern Utah Director	Ron_dean@hatch.senate.gov	801-375-7881

Office	Name	Email	Phone
Salt Lake City, UT 84138			
Nevada Governor's Office	Brian Sandoval, Governor Pam Robinson, Policy Director Sheila Anderson, Policy Advisor (Sage Grouse)	probinson@gov.nv.gov skanderson@gov.nv.gov	(775) 684-5670 main number
Nevada Department of Agriculture	Jim Barbee-Director	jrbarbee@agri.nv.gov	(775) 353-3619
Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	Brad Crowell – Director Jim Lawrence, Deputy Director and staff contact for Governor's Sagebrush Ecosystem Council	bcrowell@dcnr.nv.gov lawrence@dcnr.nv.gov	775-684-8600 main number 775-684-2726 (Lawrence)
Governor's Sagebrush Ecosystem Council	J.J. Goicoechea, Chair	jgoicoechea@EurekaCounty NV.gov	775-738-8076
Nevada Department of Wildlife	Tony Wasley - Director	twasley@ndow.org	775-688-1590
State of Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Program	Kelly McGowan, Program Manager	kmcgowan@sagebrusheco.n v.gov	775-684-8600
Nevada Association of Counties	Dagny Stapleton, Executive Director Tori Sundheim, Public Lands and Natural Resources Coordinator	dstapleton@nvnaco.org tsundheim@nv.naco.org	775-883-7863
Rep. Jacky Rosen (note: minimal NFS overlap, no sage grouse habitat)	Dane Hudson, District Director	Dane.Hudson@mail.house.g ov	702-963-9339
Rep. Dina Titus (district largely metro Las Vegas, no sage grouse habitat)	Mike Naft, District Director	Mike.Naft@mail.house.gov	702-220-9893
Rep. Mark Amodei	Stacy Parobek, District Director	Stacy.Parobek@mail.house.g ov	775-686-5760

Rep. Ruben Kihuen	Asha Jones, District Director	Asha.Jones@mail.house.gov	702-912-1634
Sen. Catherine Cortez-Masto	Jennifer Crowe – Northern Nevada Director	Jennifer_Crowe@cortezmasto.senate.gov	775-686-5750
Sen. Dean Heller	Ashley Jonkey – State Director	Ashley_Jonkey@heller.senate.gov	775-686-5770
Office	Name	Email	Phone
Idaho Governor’s Office	Katrine Franks (pronounced “Katrina”), Special Assistant for Natural Resources	Katrine.Franks@gov.Idaho.gov	208-334-2100
	Sam Eaton, Governor’s Legal Counsel	sam.eaton@osc.idaho.gov	208-334-2100
	Dustin Miller, Office of Species Conservation	dustin.miller@osc.idaho.gov	208-334-2189
	Joshua Uriarte	Joshua.Uriarte@osc.idaho.gov	208-334-2189
Idaho Department of Fish and Game	Virgil Moore, Director	virgil.moore@idfg.idaho.gov	208-334-5159
	Don Kemner	don.kemner@idfg.idaho.gov	208-287-2748
	Ann Moser	ann.moser@idfg.idaho.gov	208-334-2920
Idaho Department of Lands	David Groeschl, Acting Director	dgroeschl@idl.idaho.gov dfrench@idl.idaho.gov	208-334-0200 and 208-666-8604
	Diane French		208-334-0274
Rep. Raul Labrador	Brad Griff	Brad.griff@mail.house.gov	208-888-3188
Rep. Mike Simpson	Craig Quartenman	Craig.Quarterman@mail.house.gov	208-334-1953
Sen. Mike Crapo	Casey Attebery	Casey_Attebery@crapo.senate.gov	208-334-1776
	Mitch Silvers	Mitch_Silvers@crapo.senate.gov	208-790-6669
Sen. James Risch	Mike Roach	Mike_Roach@Risch.senate.gov	208-342-7985
Idaho Department of Agriculture	Brooke Jacobson	brooke.jacobson@isda.idaho.gov	208-332-8561
Gretchen Hyde	Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission	ghyde@idahorange.org	208-866-2466

Governor's Office of Minerals and Energy Resources	Scott Pugrud	Scott.Pugrud@oer.idaho.gov	208-332-1679
Idaho Cattle Association	Karen Williams	karen@idahocattle.org	208-866-6438
The Nature Conservancy	Will Whelan	wwhelan@tnc.org	208-350-2202
	Bob Unnasch	bunnasch@TNC.ORG	
Idaho Power Company	Brett Dumas	BDumas@idahopower.com	208-388-2330 Or Cell 208-850-7721
Simplot Company	Darcy Helmick	darcy.helmick@simplot.com	
John Robison	Idaho Conservation League	jrobison@idahoconservation.org	208-345-6942 x13
Idaho Woolgrowers Association	Brandy Kaye	idaholambnwool@gmail.com	208-344-2271
US Fish and Wildlife Service	Greg Hughes	greg_m_hughes@fws.gov	208-378-5243
	Jason Pyron	jason_pyron@fws.gov	
Natural Resources Conservation Service	Curtis Elke	curtis.elke@id.usda.gov	208-378-5701 or 208-861-0460
Bureau of Land Management	Peter Ditton	Peter_Ditton@blm.gov	208-383-4000
	June Shoemaker	jshoemaker@blm.gov	
	Don Smurthwaite	dsmurthw@blm.gov	

Appendix C: Need for Change - Executive Summary

Executive Summary, when completed will be posted on Forest Service Regional websites.

Appendix D: Communication Tools

This appendix describes the tools for reaching internal Forest Service stakeholders (staff at the local unit, Regional Office, and Washington DC Office) as well as external individuals and entities (groups, agencies, others).

The following actions, events or products will be used to reach both internal and external stakeholders, including input on how and when they want to get input and when they would like to be involved:

- Briefings of key department and agency officials
- Advanced notice to affected tribes; government to government consultation
- Briefing of forest and regional employees through RLT or FLT engagement
- Advanced notice to elected officials and Congressional delegations
- Calls and emails to key stakeholders; government to government consultation
- Region 4 Web site: [Greater Sage-Grouse Home Page](#)
- Project contact list for direct notice (email, mail)
- News release to statewide and national media outlets
- Legal Notice to newspapers of record
- Fact sheets
- Developing talking points for key topics with state by state adaptation as needed
- Providing updated implementation guides based on engagement and amendments to the existing plans (Range Implementation Guide)
- Public Meetings

Existing communication tools include:

- The release of periodic Sage-grouse Bulletins for distribution to both internal and external partners.
- Information sharing through established external cooperator sponsored meetings such as through the Sage Grouse Task Force, the Wyoming SGIT (Sage Grouse Implementation Team) and the Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Council.
- Using established channels to involve Federal land management agencies in the planning process
- Weekly internal sage grouse planning conference calls

Appendix E: Guidelines for All Greater Sage-grouse Public Input Meetings

Use Common Conversational Courtesy

All Ideas and Points of View Have Value: All ideas have value in this setting. The goal is to achieve understanding. Simply listen, you do not have to agree. If you hear something you do not agree with or you think is "silly" or "wrong," please remember that the purpose of the workshop is to share ideas.

Be Honest, Fair, and as Candid as Possible

Help others understand you and work to understand others.

Avoid Editorializing

It will be tempting to analyze the motives of others or offer editorial comments. Please talk about YOUR ideas and thoughts. Avoid commenting on why you believe another participant thinks something.

Honor Time

People's time is precious; treat it with respect.

Think Innovatively and Welcome New Ideas

Creative thinking and problem solving are essential to success. "Climb out of the box" and attempt to think about the problem in a new way.

Invite Humor and Good Will

Be Comfortable

Please feel help yourself to refreshments or take personal breaks. If you have other needs, please inform the meeting organizer.

Process Agreements

- All meeting notes, informational materials, and products will be made available to the public.
- Participants will listen to one another, seeking to understand and learn from each other's perspective.
- The Forest Service seeks mutual understanding among participants and staff.
- The Forest Service seeks information from individuals, not consensus. The Forest Service can seek information from individuals about whether consensus exists among individual participants. The Forest Service cannot ask for group consensus.
- Individuals who contribute during public meetings can participate in the NEPA process, including submitting formal comments or objections. Participating in collaborative planning workshops does not limit anyone's activity during the NEPA process.

Appendix F: Tracking Public Participation Results

Documenting how public involvement contributed to the development of a plan is required (FSH 1909.12, sec.21.43). A summary of public participation is often included as an appendix to a forest plan revision environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

The following is a summary of public participations up to the current date of this strategy.

1. November 21, 2017. Notice of Intent: Amendments to Land Management Plans for Greater Sage-grouse Conservation
2. November 21-January 19, 2018. Comment Period
3. March, 2018. [Executive Summary of Comments](#): Potential Amendments to Land Management Plans Regarding Sage-Grouse Conservation

Affiliation	Number of Submissions*
Government (federal, state, tribal, and local)	41
Organizations (businesses and nonprofits)	69
Individuals	50,425

* Number may include multiple submissions by the same entity.

4. The Forest Service released a supplemental NOI with specific proposed actions for comment and the public comment period ended on August 15, 2018. The comments received have been summarized into a [report that is available online](#).

Affiliation	Number of Submissions*
Government (federal, state, tribal, and local)	15
Organizations (businesses and nonprofits)	30
Individuals	8689

* Number may include multiple submissions by the same entity.

Sage-grouse Cooperator/Public Meeting Tracker

Date	Meeting Location	Meeting type and Purpose	Summary of attendees*Sign in sheet on file
June 6, 2018	WGFD - Cheyenne	Cooperator Meeting to solicit feedback on proposed action in advance of June 21 NOI	USFWS, BLM, WCCA, WDA, WGFD, Governor's Office, USFS*
July 12, 2018	WGFD - Cheyenne	Cooperating Agency Meeting to review proposed actions and provide updates on NOI and NEPA timelines	USFWS, BLM, WCCA, WDA, WGFD, Governor's Office, USFS, Conservation Districts*
September 6, 2018	Salt Lake City	Shivik, UT Sage-grouse plan for Plan Implementation Committee, Salt Lake City	Led by John Shivik
Sept 11, 2018	Tampa, FL	Shivik, Harper, FS Update to the WAFWA Sagebrush Executive Oversight Committee,	
Sept 11, 2018	WGFD - Cheyenne	Cooperator Meeting to review proposed actions prior to release of DEIS	USFWS, BLM, WCCA, WDA, WGFD, Governor's Office, USFS, Conservation Districts*
September 12-13, 2018	Denver, CO	Buchanan and Shivik, WGA FS update for Sage-grouse Task Force, Denver	
September 14, 2018	Carson City, NV	Nelson, Shivik, Sage-grouse plan for Nevada Counties and Cooperating Agencies/Carson City	
September 20, 2018	Virtual webinar	Shivik webinar, Sage-grouse plan for Utah Counties and Cooperating Agencies, Webinar	
October 22, 2018	Cheyenne, WY	Open House	Public, various agencies
October 23, 2018	Pinedale, WY	Open House	Public, various agencies