

Greater Sage-grouse Record of Decision – Forest Plan Amendments for: Idaho and Southwest Montana, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming.

Roads/Transportation Implementation Guide Version 1.1

Follow the Standards and Guidelines for the Amendment relevant to the forest lands where road maintenance or construction activities may occur (as written per state within Great Basin or Rocky Mountain Records of Decision. First determine if the project is within special sage-grouse habitat management areas (e.g., Priority Habitat Management Area), and the proximity of leks. The Desired Condition is for minimal disturbance to sage grouse during breeding, nesting, and wintering periods. The Desired Condition is for minimal disturbance to sage grouse during breeding, nesting, and wintering periods. Minimal disturbance can include regular road maintenance to include blading, culvert cleaning, cattleguard cleaning, sign maintenance or replacement, and other activities of a short duration (one day or less at any given location) with no land disturbance outside of the roadway prism. Minimal disturbance would not include road construction and reconstruction. For new structures that could constitute an Anthropogenic Disturbance (as defined in Amendments), contact the appropriate BLM State Office or use the [Wyoming DDCT](#) to complete a disturbance calculation.

Standards and Guidelines apply across all four state amendments to minimize road and trail construction and mitigate the effects of construction and maintenance activities on sage grouse. Reference individual plan amendments for season dates that vary between states. In Nevada two additional Guidelines suggest seasonal road closures in the spring and limiting over-snow motorized use in wintering areas. In Wyoming the first and second Standards are modified to restrict road construction within varying distances of sage grouse leks (0.25 to 1.9 miles depending on habitat area and road maintenance level), and two Standards are added to minimize the impact of road improvements.

Implement Sage-Grouse Standards and Guidelines through the Road Management Objective (RMO) process as defined in INFRA. RMO's are the standard operating procedure for Forest Service roads data management, whereby the Forest Engineer details the road maintenance level, allowed uses, design criteria, and management direction including NEPA prescriptions. RMOs are prepared by the engineer and must be approved by the District Ranger. Full implementation will require overlaying sage grouse habitat areas and leks with the National Forest System roads layer in GIS to identify roads that must have RMO's updated with the new prescriptive Standards and Guidelines from the applicable sage grouse plan amendments. Trail construction in sage grouse habitat may be similarly informed through the Trail Management Objective (TMO) process.

For clarification regarding potential ambiguity in the Guideline regarding mowing and maintenance to reduce the risk of vehicle or human-caused wildfires and the spread of invasive plants, restrict mowing and vegetation removal to *within* one car-length of the edge of roads.

Roads/Transportation Implementation Process

Figure 1. Road/Transportation project implementation flowchart

