

1 **DIVISION 140**
2 **GREATER SAGE-GROUSE CONSERVATION STRATEGY FOR OREGON**
3

4 **635-140-0000**

5 **Purpose**

6 These administrative rules establish the state policy for the protection and enhancement of
7 Greater Sage-Grouse in Oregon. The Commission anticipates that these policies will be
8 implemented by Department staff as described in the [Department's] "Greater Sage-Grouse
9 Conservation Assessment and Strategy for Oregon" plan, **most of** which is not incorporated into
10 this rule. (Copies of the plan are available through the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.)
11 **OAR 635-140-0005 and 635-140-0010 incorporate into rule those portions of the plan which**
12 **set population and habitat management objectives. OAR 635-140-0015 incorporates those**
13 **portions of the plan which govern the Department's core area strategy and**
14 **recommendations concerning conservation and mitigation.**
15

16 **635-140-0005**

17 **Population Management [Objectives]**

18 **In accordance with the Wildlife Policy (ORS 496.012), the primary goal is to restore,**
19 **maintain and enhance populations of greater sage-grouse such that multiple uses of**
20 **populations and their habitats can continue. Regional and state population objectives shall**
21 **be identified based on the best information available.**

22 [Population management objectives for statewide and regional populations for sage-grouse are as
23 follows:]

24 [(1) Objective 1—Statewide:]

25 **(1) Policy: Manage greater sage-grouse statewide to** maintain or enhance [sage-grouse
26 numbers] **their abundance** and distribution at the 2003 spring breeding population level,
27 approximately [4] **30,000 birds over the next 50 years.** [,-until 2055.]

28 **(2) Objectives: Consistent with the population management policy, achieve the following**
29 **regional population objectives:** [(2) Objective 2—]

30 **(a) Baker Resource Area BLM:** maintain or enhance **greater** sage-grouse [numbers] **abundance**
31 and distribution at the 2003 spring breeding population level, approximately [3] **2,000 birds.**[,
32 until 2055.]

1 [~~(3) Objective 3—~~] **(b)** Vale District BLM (~~[not including]~~ **excluding** Baker **Resource Area**
2 **BLM**): maintain or enhance **greater** sage-grouse [~~numbers~~] **abundance** and distribution at the
3 2003 spring breeding population level, approximately 11~~[6],000 birds. [~~until 2055.~~]~~

4 [~~(4) Objective 4—~~] **(c)** Burns District BLM: maintain or enhance **greater** sage-grouse [~~numbers~~]
5 **abundance** and distribution at the 2003 spring breeding population level, approximately [~~6,5~~]
6 **4,300** birds. [~~until 2055.~~]

7 [~~(5) Objective 5—~~] **(d)** Lakeview District BLM: maintain or enhance **greater** sage-grouse
8 [~~numbers~~] **abundance** and distribution at the 2003 spring breeding population level,
9 approximately [~~12,0~~] **9,400** birds. [~~until 2055.~~]

10 [~~(6) Objective 6—~~] **(e)** Prineville District BLM: restore **greater** sage-grouse [~~numbers~~]
11 **abundance** and distribution near the 1980 spring breeding population level, approximately 3,000
12 birds. [~~until 2055.~~]

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14 **635-140-0010**

15 **Habitat Management Objectives**

16 **(1) The habitat goals are to:**

17 **(a) maintain or enhance the distribution of sagebrush habitats within greater sage-grouse**
18 **range in Oregon; and**

19 **(b) manage those habitats in a variety of structural stages to benefit greater sage-grouse.**

20 [~~Statewide and regional habitat objectives for sage-grouse are as follows:~~]

21 [~~(1) Objective 1— Statewide: retain~~] **(2) Policy: Manage a minimum of \geq 70% of greater**
22 **sage-grouse range [as] for sagebrush habitat in advanced structural stages, sagebrush class 3, 4**
23 **or 5, with an emphasis on classes 4 and 5. The remaining approximately 30% [with] includes**
24 **areas of juniper encroachment, non-sagebrush shrubland, and grassland and should be managed**
25 **to increase available habitat within greater sage-grouse range.** [~~that potentially can be~~
26 ~~rehabilitated or enhanced.~~]

27 [~~(2) Objective 2— Maintain 100% of~~] **(3) Objective: To maintain and enhance** existing
28 **sagebrush habitats and enhance potential habitats that have been disturbed such that there is no**
29 **net loss of sagebrush habitat** in the following regions [~~. Existing conditions are~~]:

30 (a) Baker Resource Area **BLM**: 82% sagebrush and 18% disturbed habitats.

- 1 (b) Vale District **BLM** (~~not including~~ **excluding** Baker **Resource Area**): 7[3]0% sagebrush and
2 [27] **30%** disturbed habitats.
- 3 (c) Burns District **BLM**: 68% sagebrush and 32% disturbed habitats.
- 4 (d) Lakeview District **BLM**: 72% sagebrush and 28% disturbed habitats.
- 5 (e) Prineville District **BLM**: 47% sagebrush and 53% disturbed habitats.

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7 **635-140-0015**

8 **Core Area Approach to Conservation**

9 **Technical terms used in this section are defined in the Glossary of the Greater Sage-Grouse**
10 **Conservation Assessment and Strategy for Oregon adopted by the Commission on April**
11 **22, 2011 (copies of the plan are available through the Oregon Department of Fish and**
12 **Wildlife).**

13 **(1) The goal of establishing core areas is to address greater sage-grouse management from**
14 **a conservation biology perspective that identifies the most productive populations and**
15 **habitats that meets all life history needs.**

16 **(a) Policy 1. The Department shall develop and maintain maps that identify core area**
17 **habitats necessary to conserve 90% of Oregon's greater sage-grouse population with**
18 **emphasis on highest density and important use areas which provide for breeding, wintering**
19 **and connectivity corridors.**

20 **Objective 1. Consistent with Policy 1, the Department shall use the following criteria to**
21 **define core area habitat. All sagebrush types or other habitats that support greater sage-**
22 **grouse that are encompassed by areas:**

23 **(A) of very high, high and moderate lek density strata;**

24 **(B) where low lek density strata overlap local connectivity corridors; or**

25 **(C) where winter habitat-use polygons overlap with either low lek density strata,**
26 **connectivity corridors, or occupied habitat.**

27 **(b) Policy 2. The Department shall develop and maintain maps that identify low density**
28 **habitat which provide breeding, summer, and migratory habitats of the Oregon statewide**
29 **greater sage-grouse population.**

- 1 **Objective 2. Consistent with Policy 2, the Department shall use the following criteria to**
2 **define low density habitat. All sagebrush types or other habitats that support greater sage-**
3 **grouse that are encompassed by areas where:**
- 4 **(A) low lek density overlap with seasonal connectivity corridors;**
5 **(B) local corridors occur outside of all lek density strata;**
6 **(C) low lek density strata occur outside of connectivity corridors; or**
7 **(D) seasonal connectivity corridors occur outside of all lek density strata.**
- 8 **(c) When developing and maintaining the maps referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b) the**
9 **Department will use:**
- 10 **(A) Local Sage-Grouse Implementation Teams to evaluate the maps and refine exterior**
11 **boundaries by use of aerial imagery and local knowledge of sage-grouse and sage-grouse**
12 **habitat; and**
13 **(B) best available science to further understanding of greater sage-grouse life history and**
14 **conservation needs.**
- 15 **(2) Application of Sage Grouse Core Area and Low Density Habitat Categorizations and**
16 **Conservation Recommendations.**
- 17 **(a) Policy 1. The Department shall follow the Fish and Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Policy**
18 **(OAR 635-415-000) when defining habitat categories and providing recommendations to**
19 **address potential site-level impacts to greater sage-grouse and their habitats.**
- 20 **(b) Policy 2. The Department recommends the following conservation guidelines,**
21 **incorporated here by reference are the “Action,” “Issue” and “Conservation Guidelines”**
22 **text from Chapter V of the Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy**
23 **for Oregon adopted by the Commission on April 22, 2011 (copies available from the**
24 **Department):**
- 25 **(A) wildfire;**
26 **(B) prescribed fire;**
27 **(C) livestock grazing;**
28 **(D) juniper expansion;**
29 **(E) invasive vegetation;**
30 **(F) vegetation treatment;**
31 **(G) realty;**

1 **(H) energy development;**

2 **(I) climate change;**

3 **(J) recreation;**

4 **(K) predation;**

5 **(L) West Nile virus; and**

6 **(M) regulatory.**

7

8 [635-140-0025

9 Five-Year Review

10 ~~The Department will review the Plan every five years.]~~

DRAFT