



Environmental Data & Governance Initiative Website Monitoring Report

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Reduction in Access to Sage Grouse Conservation Information and Resources on BLM Websites

December 18, 2018

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Reduction in Access to Sage Grouse Conservation Information and Resources on BLM Websites

Overview

The U. S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) removed and altered web resources regarding conservation efforts for the sage grouse¹ during the period between March 2018 and December 2018 when sage grouse conservation plans have been under revision by BLM. The website changes detailed in this report occurred just before, during, and shortly after the public comment period (May 4, 2018 - August 2, 2018) for BLM's draft environmental impact statements and proposed amendments to six plans managing sage grouse habitat and conservation in seven western states, and in the days surrounding the release of the final proposed amendments and environmental impact statements (December 6, 2018). Days before the comment period opened in May, BLM removed its "Top 5 Things You Should Know About Greater Sage-Grouse" page that highlighted the success of existing conservation efforts, and removed nine fact sheets about sage grouse conservation efforts in 10 states. Leading up to the public comment period, BLM also removed information regarding the withdrawal of prime sage grouse habitat from oil and gas leasing, replaced it with a notice that the withdrawal had been cancelled in October 2017, and then removed the page altogether during the comment period (in June 2018). In August, directly following the public comment period, all of the web pages regarding state-specific BLM conservation efforts were removed. On December 6, 2018 BLM posted proposed Resource Management Plan Amendments (RMPAs) and final environmental impact statements (EIS) for the six plans, which initiated a protest period from December 7, 2018 to January 8, 2019. Within days of posting the proposed amendments and final EISs, BLM removed its webpage about state sage grouse conservation efforts, and modified its remaining sage grouse webpages to remove mention of the 2015 plans that were being amended and to reframe BLM's role as supporting states and ensuring access to public lands.

Background Information on Sage Grouse Conservation

The greater sage grouse, the iconic bird of the sagebrush steppe whose males flare their tail feathers, strut, and dance to attract mates, has undergone devastating population losses as its habitat has been fragmented or destroyed due to oil and gas drilling, wildfires, invasive species encroachment, and ex-urban development. Between 2007 and 2013, the sage grouse experienced a [population decrease of more than 50%](#). In 2010, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) determined that the greater sage grouse warranted listing under the Endangered Species Act, but its listing was precluded due to other higher priorities ([75 FR 13909](#)). In a 2015 re-evaluation, FWS determined that, due to "an unprecedented conservation planning effort by Federal, State, local, and private partners ... regulatory

¹ The BLM website uses a combination of "greater sage-grouse," "sage-grouse," and "sage grouse" to refer to the bird in question. In this report, we primarily use "sage grouse."

mechanisms and conservation efforts adequately address the loss and fragmentation of sage-grouse habitats...” and decided that including the sage grouse on the endangered species list was no longer warranted ([80 FR 59857](#)). This multi-level, landscape-scale, collaborative effort across a broad range of resource management interests, mobilized to conserve the greater sage grouse, was [proclaimed](#) to be one of the most successful wildlife conservation efforts in history.

In June 2017, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke issued [Secretarial Order 3353](#), which established a Sage-Grouse Review Team with representatives from FWS, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to review the sage grouse conservation management plans with “[local economic growth and job creation in mind](#).” Under Secretary Zinke’s direction, the Department of the Interior’s policies regarding the sage grouse then began to shift, first with the BLM [cancelling the withdrawal of 10 million acres from oil and gas leasing](#) in October 2017, opening that essential sage grouse habitat to potential oil and gas development. In [December 2017](#) and [January 2018](#), the BLM issued instructional memoranda to all field officials revising oil and gas leasing policies with regard to sage grouse habitat and public notice to “alleviate unnecessary impediments and burdens”.

On May 4, 2018, the [BLM published draft amendments](#) to six sage grouse resource management plans covering seven states (Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, Nevada/California, Utah, and Wyoming) along with draft Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) of those amendments. The public comment period for the proposed amendments and EISs was open from May 4, 2018 to August 2, 2018. On November 9, 2018 the BLM [posted the received comments](#), and on December 6, 2018 published the [final proposed resource management plan amendment \(RMPA\) and EIS for the six plans](#). A protest period for the RMPAs and EISs is open from December 7, 2018 to January 8, 2019.

Description of Changes

The BLM reduced access to web resources regarding existing conservation efforts for the greater sage-grouse in the spring and summer 2018, directly before, during, and shortly after a public comment period for proposed amendments to sage grouse conservation plans. BLM further reduced access to certain resources and restored access to others following the release of the final RMPA and EISs, which opened a public protest period lasting from December 7, 2018 to January 8, 2019.

The BLM published draft environmental impact statements and draft amendments to six BLM sage grouse resource management plans covering seven states on May 4, 2018. In the days prior to those publications and the public comment period regarding them, BLM removed its “Top 5 Things You Should Know about Greater Sage-Grouse” web page (**1.1a**), reduced access to all nine of its BLM state-specific sage grouse conservation fact sheets (Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Nevada/California, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming) (**e.g. 7.1a, 8.1a**), and deleted information regarding the withdrawal of sage

grouse habitat from oil and gas leasing in favor of a notice of that withdrawal's cancellation (which occurred in October 2017) **(6.1a)**. BLM added contextual information for the upcoming draft amendments to one of the nine state-specific sage grouse conservation efforts pages, the Oregon page **(13.1a)**. BLM also modified the text on the Wyoming page to remove the sentence "Energy development and associated infrastructure is a predominant threat, along with invasive species in northeastern Wyoming" **(15.1a)**.

During the public comment period for BLM's draft amendments and draft environmental impact statements, May 4 - August 2, 2018, BLM made minor modifications to its website regarding sage grouse conservation that shuffled information across various sage grouse web pages (see pairs **2.3a** and **5.1b**, **4.1a** and **5.1a**, **4.1a** and **2.2a**). BLM also removed a link to the State Sage Grouse Efforts webpage from the main Greater Sage Grouse webpage **(2.3a)** and removed the webpage with information about the cancellation of sage grouse focal area withdrawal from oil and gas leasing **(6.6a)**.

In the days following the public comment period in early August 2018, BLM substantially reduced access to state-specific conservation plan information by removing the state sage grouse efforts webpages **(7.2-15.2)**, and removed links to those pages from the main State Sage-Grouse Efforts webpage **(3.3a)**. BLM also removed the sentence, "federal and state management plans are important for addressing threats to the species" from the State Sage-Grouse Efforts webpage **(3.3b)**.

BLM's final proposed resource management plan amendments and EISs for the six sage grouse plans were published on December 6, 2018. Within days of this publication, BLM removed its State Sage-Grouse Efforts webpage **(3.5a)**, and reframed its role in sage grouse management from being complementary to states' roles, to highlighting the states' primary roles in sage grouse conservation **(2.5b)**. BLM stated that the plan amendments provided more flexibility and access to public lands, and asserted that "increased access to public lands and resources ensures shared stewardship of sagebrush landscapes..." **(4.4b)**. BLM also altered language to remove reference to the 2015 conservation plans and the 2015 decision to not list the sage grouse on the endangered species list due to coordinated conservation plans **(2.5b** and **4.4b)**, and removed a clause about the importance of buffer zones around breeding grounds **(5.3a)**. During this time, BLM also restored three state sage grouse efforts webpages, for Idaho, Oregon, and Utah **(11.3, 13.4, 14.3)**. A public protest period regarding the EISs is open from December 7, 2018 to January 8, 2019.

Please note that, throughout this report, portions of webpage text that were changed, added, or removed are emphasized in ***bold italics***.

Table of Contents

Page	Page Title	URL	Changes Identified	Highlights
Page 1	Top 5 Things You Should Know About Greater Sage-Grouse	https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/what-you-should-know	Page removed	Primary introductory sage grouse page removed (1.1a).
Page 2	Greater Sage-Grouse	https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sage-grouse	Page reorganization; text and link changes	Reframed federal role (2.5a); removed info about 2015 plans (2.5b).
Page 3	State Sage-Grouse Efforts	https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/state-sagegrouse-efforts	Links and video removed; text and image changes; page removed	Sage grouse video removed (3.2a). Links to state-specific efforts pages removed (3.3a); map of sage grouse conservation area removed (3.4a). Page removed (3.5a).
Page 4	BLM Greater Sage-Grouse Plans	https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/blm-sagegrouse-plans	Text changes; link changes	Added text to promote flexibility and increased access to public lands (4.4a).
Page 5	Implementing the BLM's Greater Sage-Grouse Plans	https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/blm-sagegrouse-plans/implementing-plans	Text changes	Removed clause about buffer zones (5.3a).
Page 6	Sage-Grouse Focal Area Withdrawal Cancellation	https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/blm-sagegrouse-plans/minerals-withdrawals	Text changes; page removal	Detailed information about leasing withdrawal removed (6.1a). Page removed (6.6a)
Pages 7-15	State Sage-Grouse Efforts webpages	https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/state-sagegrouse-efforts/ ***	Page removals	Links to fact sheets removed (e.g. 7.1a). Clause about the threat of energy extraction to sage grouse conservation removed from one page (15.1a). All state sage grouse conservation efforts pages removed (e.g. 7.2a). Three state pages restored (11.3, 13.4, 14.3)

Detailed Description of Changes

Page 1: TOP 5 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT GREATER SAGE-GROUSE

- URL:
<https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/what-you-should-know>
- Removed page
- Page removal occurred between **March 15, 2018, 5:24 AM EDT** and **May 3, 2018, 12:57 AM EDT**
- Internet Archive's Wayback Machine links
 - Closest pre-change (August 2017):
<https://web.archive.org/web/20170808130700/https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/what-you-should-know>
 - Closest post-change (December 2018):
<https://web.archive.org/web/20181208203413/https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/what-you-should-know>

Screenshot 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5:

The entire page "Top 5 Things You Should Know About Greater Sage-Grouse" was removed. The following details the content that was removed from the page:

(1.1a) Text removed from removed page:

"Learn the top five things you should know about the sage grouse and why you should care (originally shared by the Department of the Interior).

1. The greater sage grouse does not require Endangered Species Act protection. Over the past five years, an unprecedented, science-based land conservation effort across the west has taken place to protect the sagebrush landscape and reduce the threats to the sage grouse's habitat. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that these efforts have led to a huge wildlife win -- the sage grouse does not require Endangered Species Act protection.

(1.2a) Text removed from page (continued)

2. Largest land conservation effort in U.S. history. A diverse group of people across 11 western states has come together to protect the greater sage grouse, which calls the iconic sagebrush landscape home. States, federal land management agencies, private landowners, scientists, developers and many other stakeholders have all stepped up to protect and restore the sagebrush ecosystem. It's making a huge difference, significantly reducing threats to 90 percent of the

bird's breeding habitat.

3. What's good for the bird is good for the herd. Many of the species that live in the sagebrush ecosystem are found nowhere else in the world. Protecting the sage grouse's habitat also protects the 350+ other species -- from mule deer and elk to pronghorn and golden eagles -- that depend on the sagebrush landscape for survival.

(1.3a) Text removed from page (continued)

4. Sagebrush equals world-class recreation. Nicknamed the sagebrush sea, the sagebrush ecosystem provides amazing outdoor recreation opportunities. These activities, along with ranching, are key to local economies. A healthy sagebrush habitat supports \$1 billion in outdoor recreation.

(1.4a) Text removed from page (continued)

5. The sage grouse knows how to dance. The sage grouse is a stately looking bird with an elaborate mating ritual. Male birds strut, fan their feathers and inflate bright yellow throat sacs while making a popping sound -- all with the hope of attracting a female. These birds definitely know how to dance."

(1.2b, 1.4b) Links removed from within removed page:

Two links were also removed from within the page's main text: a 2015 Department of the Interior press release announcing, among other things, that the Sage-Grouse no longer necessitated inclusion on the Endangered Species Act due to the large-scale conservation project ("[Read the 2015 press release by the Department of the Interior](#)") and a link to a 2017 BLM Socio-Economic Impact Report ("[Read our latest socio-economic impact report here](#)"). Both of these pages are still online as of December 7, 2018.

(1.1b, 1.2c, 1.3b, 1.4c) Two images and three embedded YouTube videos removed along with page.

(1.5a) Left sidebar removed along with page


- [**FISH AND WILDLIFE**](#)
 - [**THREATENED AND ENDANGERED**](#)
 - [**FISHERIES AND AQUATICS**](#)
 - [**WILDLIFE**](#)
 - [**SAGE-GROUSE**](#)
 - [**BLM SAGE-GROUSE PLANS**](#)
 - [**STATE SAGE-GROUSE EFFORTS**](#)
 - [**PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL AND DRAFT EIS**](#)

(EDGI Note: The link here is to Internet Archive Wayback Machine version of site, as site is no longer available (see 6.3a)

Top 5 Things You Should Know about Greater Sage-grouse

Learn the top five things you should know about the sage grouse and why you should care (originally shared by the Department of the Interior).

1. The greater sage grouse does not require Endangered Species Act protection. Over the past five years, an unprecedented, science-based land conservation effort across the west has taken place to protect the sagebrush landscape and reduce the threats to the sage grouse's habitat. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that these efforts have led to a huge wildlife win -- the sage grouse does not require Endangered Species Act protection.



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MANAGEMENT**

Page Not Found
Sorry, the content you are looking for is not found or has moved.

Please return to the [home page at www.blm.gov](#) or try the search box above.

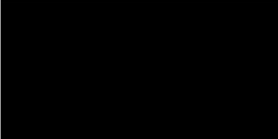
Were you looking for any of these items?

- [Recreation sites across the BLM](#) - Search by State, recreation activity and keyword
- [Press Releases](#) - Searchable by State, year and keyword
- [BLM Forms](#) - search for forms needed to do business with the BLM
- [Navigator](#) - BLM Navigator is your one-stop shop for keyword and geospatial search of BLM data. In just minutes you can search our trove of maps and datasets which you can annotate, edit and save with ease.
- [Public Room](#) - Find maps, brochures, reports, factsheets, guides, and

Screenshot 1.1

[Read the 2015 press release by the Department of the Interior.](#)

2. Largest land conservation effort in U.S. history. A diverse group of people across 11 western states has come together to protect the greater sage grouse, which calls the iconic sagebrush landscape home. States, federal land management agencies, private landowners, scientists, developers and many other stakeholders have all stepped up to protect and restore the sagebrush ecosystem. It's making a huge difference, significantly reducing threats to 90 percent of the bird's breeding habitat.



3. What's good for the bird is good for the herd. Many of the species that live in the sagebrush ecosystem are found nowhere else in the world. Protecting the sage grouse's habitat also protects the 350+ other species -- from mule deer and elk to pronghorn and golden eagles -- that depend on the sagebrush landscape for survival.

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Page Not Found
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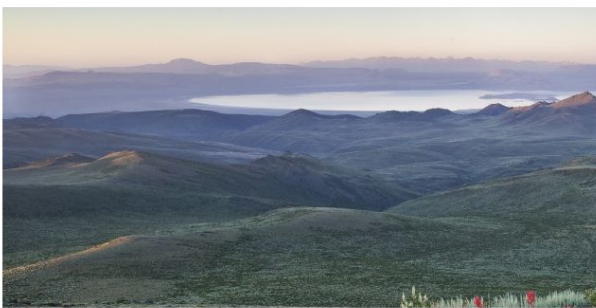
Please return to the [home page at www.blm.gov](#) or try the search box above.

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- [Navigator](#) - BLM Navigator is your one-stop shop for keyword and geospatial search of BLM data. In just minutes you can search our trove of maps and datasets which you can annotate, edit and save with ease.
- [Public Room](#) - Find maps, brochures, reports, factsheets, guides, and

Screenshot 1.2

4. Sagebrush equals world-class recreation. Nicknamed the sagebrush sea, the sagebrush ecosystem provides amazing outdoor recreation opportunities. These activities, along with ranching, are key to local economies. A healthy sagebrush habitat supports \$1 billion in outdoor recreation.



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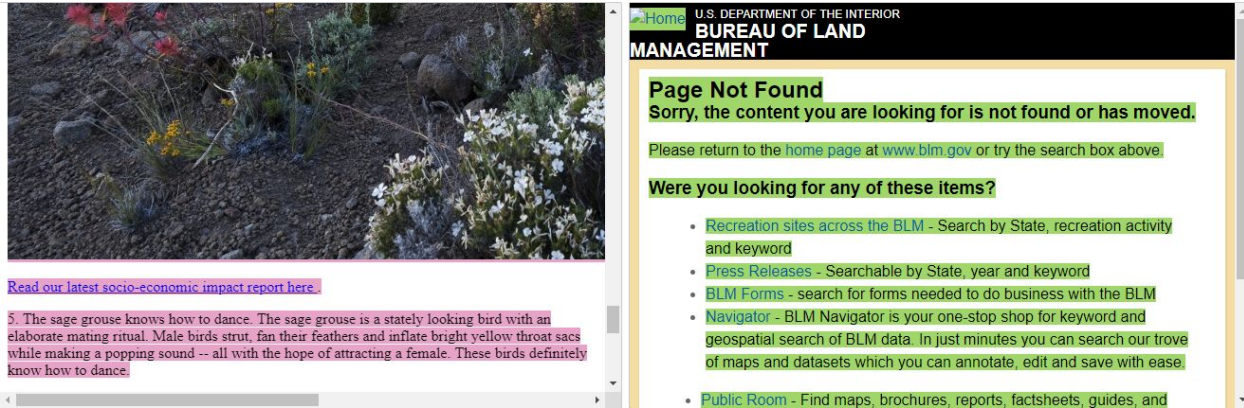
Page Not Found
Sorry, the content you are looking for is not found or has moved.

Please return to the [home page at www.blm.gov](#) or try the search box above.

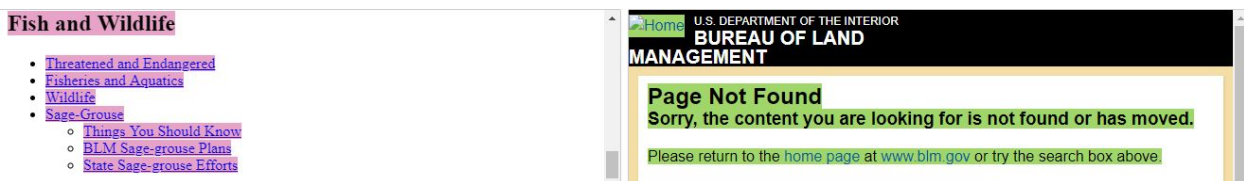
Were you looking for any of these items?

- [Recreation sites across the BLM](#) - Search by State, recreation activity and keyword
- [Press Releases](#) - Searchable by State, year and keyword
- [BLM Forms](#) - search for forms needed to do business with the BLM
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- [Public Room](#) - Find maps, brochures, reports, factsheets, guides, and

Screenshot 1.3



Screenshot 1.4



Screenshot 1.5

Page 2: GREATER SAGE-GROUSE

- URL: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sage-grouse>
- Text changes to page
- Changes in screenshots 2.1 - 2.4 made between **June 5, 2018 11:05 AM EDT** and **June 13, 2018 7:14 AM EDT**.
- Changes in screenshots 2.5 and 2.6 made between **November 30, 2018 6:28 AM EST** and **December 8, 2018 2:02 AM EST**.
- Internet Archive Wayback Machine links
 - Closest pre-changes (April 2018):
<https://web.archive.org/web/20180428225021/https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sage-grouse>
 - Closest post-changes (December 2018):
<https://web.archive.org/web/20181208203840/https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sage-grouse>

Screenshots 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4:

Changes observed in screenshots 2.1 - 2.4 occurred between June 5, 2018 and June 13, 2018.

(2.1a) Text changes to untitled top section of page

Text as of June 5, 2018:

“Greater Sage-Grouse are an icon of the American West, their booming mating calls at dawn ***form an integral element of the great sagebrush sea that covers much of its land.***”

Text as of June 13, 2018:

“Greater Sage-Grouse are an icon of the American West, their booming mating calls at dawn ***a signature of the the great sagebrush sea that covers much of that region.***”

(2.2a) Splitting and renaming of ***Implementing Greater Sage-Grouse Plans*** into two sections entitled ***Conserving Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat*** and ***Cooperation in Planning***. Minor modifications of information on the webpage were made regarding the upcoming proposal of amendments for resource management plans.

Text as of June 5, 2018:

IMPLEMENTING GREATER SAGE GROUSE PLANS

"The BLM manages much of the best remaining sagebrush habitat for the Greater Sage-Grouse. These plans benefit not only the Greater Sage-Grouse, but some 350 other species of plants and wildlife that rely on sagebrush steppe habitat, and the many, many people who depend on it for their livelihoods and a source of recreation.

The BLM published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Amend Land Use Plans Regarding Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation on October 11, 2017. The BLM seeks to improve management alignment with the State plans in ways that will increase flexibility, maintain access to public resources, and promote conservation outcomes. Two important changes have occurred since the 2015 plans were adopted that prompted the publication of the NOI. First the BLM and the states have had two to three years to invest time and effort into improving and restoring sage-grouse habitat, and second, the BLM has received a great deal of feedback from states and others about on-the-ground impacts and outcomes. The proposed changes will build on the 2015 plans.

[Read about the collaborative Sage-Grouse conservation efforts and BLM's implementation of Greater Sage-Grouse plans .](#)

Text as of June 13, 2018:

CONSERVING GREATER SAGE-GROUSE HABITAT

The BLM manages much of the best remaining sagebrush habitat for the Greater Sage-Grouse – on which some 350 other species of plants and wildlife also depend – and to the benefit the many, many people for whom healthy sagebrush-steppe provides livelihood and recreation. ***The BLM is actively improving sagebrush-steppe in the West through conifer removal, fuel breaks, invasive species removal, and habitat protection and restoration. In all, nearly 1.5 million acres have been or are scheduled to be treated by the end of 2018.***

[Read about BLM policy guidance for Greater Sage-Grouse habitat management .](#)

COOPERATING IN PLANNING

State governments and the federal government play complementary roles in managing Greater Sage-Grouse. States manage wildlife species, while Federal agencies like the BLM manage habitat on the public lands they steward. These shared responsibilities mean that it makes sense for state and federal plans to align in pursuing the common goal of healthy sagebrush-steppe habitat that benefits wildlife and recreation while supporting local economies.

Greater Sage-Grouse management plans the BLM adopted in 2015 were a critical in helping the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conclude that the Greater Sage-Grouse does not warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act. The BLM is currently working to build on the 2015 plans by better aligning them with respective state plans through proposed amendments that have been developed in collaboration with governors, state wildlife managers and other stakeholders.

The BLM recently published [draft environmental impact statements \(EISs\)](#) which analyze the proposed changes and will hold public meetings across the West beginning June 21, 2018, to assist those wishing to comment in formulating their submissions before the public comment period ends on August 2, 2018.

[Calendar of meetings](#) | [Links to the Draft EISs and related documents](#)

(2.3a) Changes to **State Sage-Grouse Efforts** section between June 5, 2018 and June 13, 2018.

- Removal of image showing map of [2015 Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy Boundaries](#)
- Removal of link: [Visit state webpages for local information about sage-grouse conservation](#) (see [page 3](#) of this report)

(2.4a) Changes to **QUICK LINKS** section

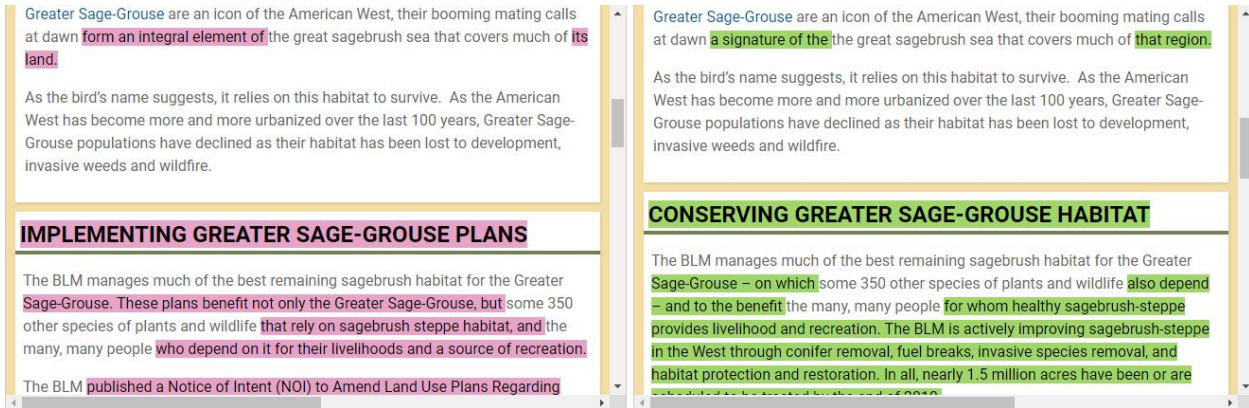
Links as of June 5, 2018

- [Greater Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments](#)
- [Secretarial Order 3353](#)
- [Updated Guidance on Managing Sagebrush Habitat Seeks Sustainable Working Landscapes and Habitat Conservation on Public Lands](#)
- [Cancellation notice of sagebrush focal area withdrawals](#)
- [Notice of Intent to amend land use plans regarding greater sage-grouse](#)
- [U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Sage-Grouse Website](#)
- [Natural Resources Conservation Service Website](#)
- [Intermountain West Joint Venture](#)

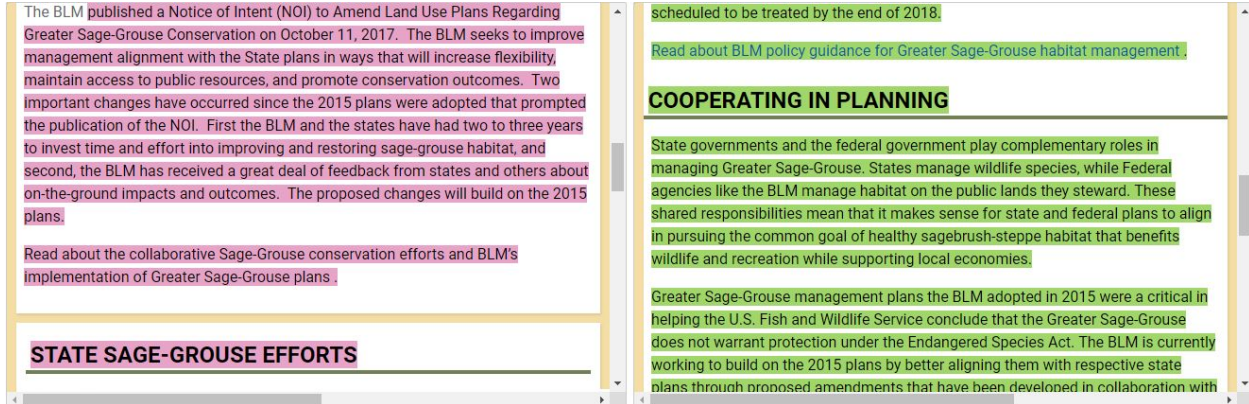
Links as of June 13, 2018

- [U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Sage-Grouse Website](#)
- [Secretarial Order 3353](#)
- [Greater Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments](#)
- [Notice of Intent to amend land use plans regarding greater sage-grouse](#)
 - EDGI note: Link address has changed
- [Updated Guidance on Managing Sagebrush Habitat Seeks Sustainable Working Landscapes and Habitat Conservation on Public Lands](#)

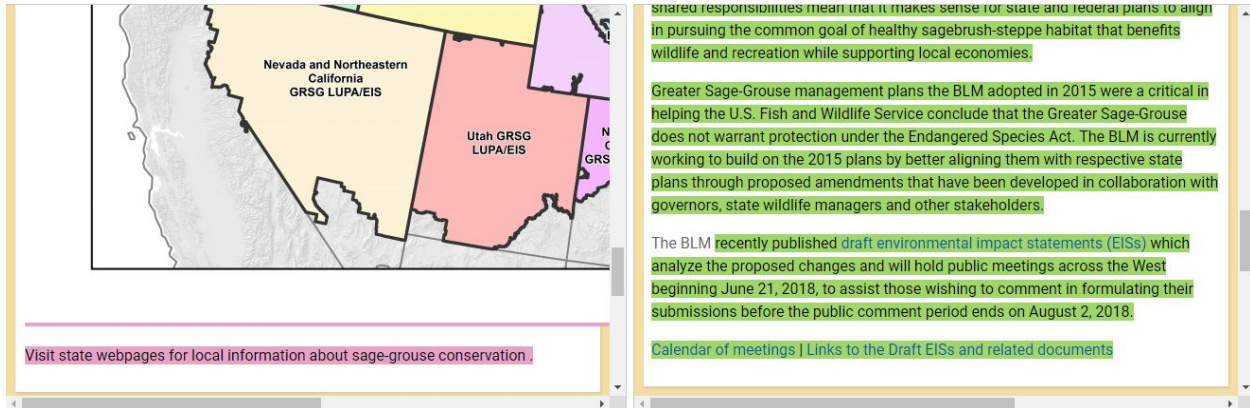
- [**Notice of cancellation of sagebrush focal area withdrawals**](#)
 - *EDGI note: Text has slightly changed; link address has changed*
- [**Sagegrouse Initiative**](#)
 - *EDGI note: Text has changed; link address is the same as prior link for "Natural Resources Conservation Service Website"*
- [**Intermountain West Joint Venture**](#)
- [**BLM sage-grouse policy**](#)
 - *EDGI note: Text and link added*



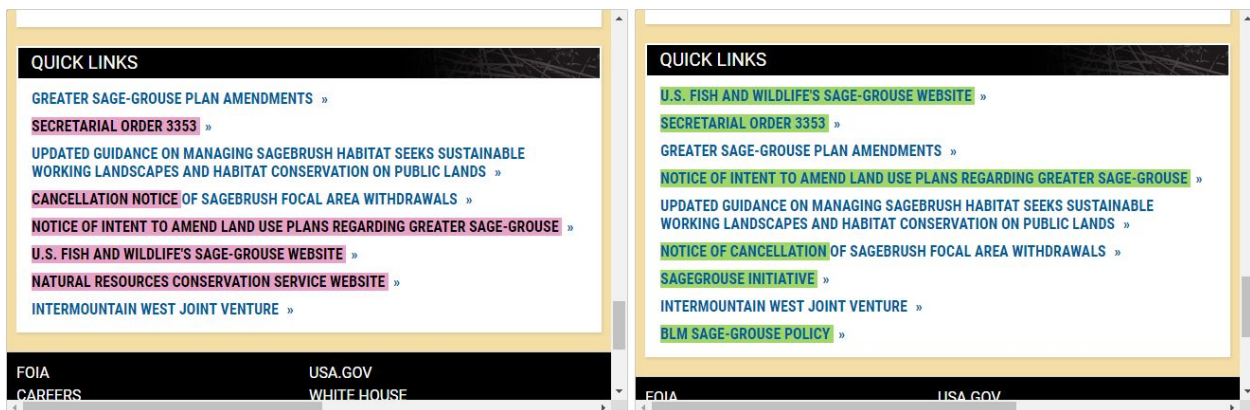
Screenshot 2.1



Screenshot 2.2



Screenshot 2.3



Screenshot 2.4

Screenshots 2.5, 2.6:

Changes observed in screenshots 2.3 and 2.4 occurred between November 30, 2018 and December 8, 2018.

(2.5a) Text changes to the **Conserving Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat** section.

Text as of November 30, 2018:

The BLM *manages much of the best remaining sagebrush habitat for the Greater Sage-Grouse* – on which some 350 *other* species of plants and wildlife *also depend – and to the benefit the many*, many people for whom healthy sagebrush-steppe provides livelihood and recreation. The BLM *is* actively improving sagebrush-steppe in the West through conifer removal, fuel breaks, invasive species removal, and habitat protection and restoration. In all, nearly 1.5 million acres have been or are scheduled to be treated by the end of 2018.

[Read about BLM policy guidance for Greater Sage-Grouse habitat management.](#)

Text as of December 8, 2018:

The BLM ***is responsible for managing vast acres of remaining sagebrush landscapes*** on which some 350 species of plants and wildlife ***depend and to benefit the*** many people for whom healthy sagebrush-steppe provides livelihood and recreation. The BLM ***continues*** actively improving sagebrush-steppe in the West through conifer removal, fuel breaks, invasive species removal, and habitat protection and restoration. In all, nearly 1.5 million acres have been or are scheduled to be treated by the end of 2018.

[Read about BLM policy guidance for Greater Sage-Grouse habitat management.](#)

(2.5b) Text changes to the **Cooperation in Planning** section, which altered language about the federal role in sage grouse conservation.

Text as of November 30, 2018:

State governments and the federal government play complementary roles in managing Greater Sage-Grouse. States manage wildlife species, while Federal agencies like the BLM manage habitat on the public lands they steward. These shared responsibilities mean that it makes sense for state and federal plans to align in pursuing the common goal of healthy sagebrush-steppe habitat that benefits wildlife and recreation while supporting local economies.

Greater Sage-Grouse management plans the BLM adopted in 2015 were a critical in helping the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#) conclude that the Greater Sage-Grouse does not warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act. The BLM is currently working to ***build on the 2015 plans by better aligning them*** with respective state plans through proposed amendments that have been developed in collaboration with governors, state wildlife managers and other stakeholders.

The BLM has published [draft environmental impact statements \(EISs\)](#) ***which analyze the proposed changes and will use information gathered during the public comment period that closed on August 2, 2018, to develop final EISs for publication in the fall of 2018.***

[Calendar of meetings](#) | [Links to the Draft EISs and related documents](#)

Text as of December 8, 2018:

Greater Sage-Grouse is a state-managed wildlife species that depends on sagebrush-steppe ecosystems managed in partnership by federal, state and local authorities. Shared responsibilities mean that it makes sense for ***the BLM as the***

largest land manager to align its strategies with the state agencies responsible for managing the species.

The BLM is currently working to ***better align its resource management plans*** with respective state ***wildlife management*** plans through proposed amendments that have been developed in collaboration with governors, state wildlife managers and other stakeholders.

The BLM has published final environmental impact statements (EISs) ***and proposed amendments to the current plans. A 30-day period to protest proposed amendments will open on December 7, 2018, and close on January 8, 2019.***

[Links to the ***Final*** EISs and related documents](#)

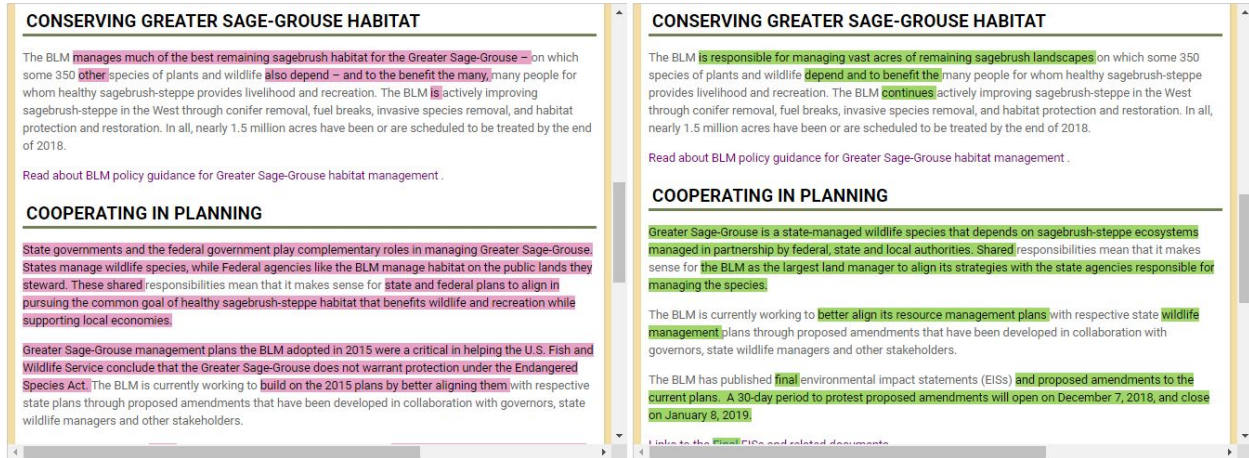
(2.6a) Renamed **Quick Links** section to **Related Resources** section and removed two links.

Links as of November 30, 2018:

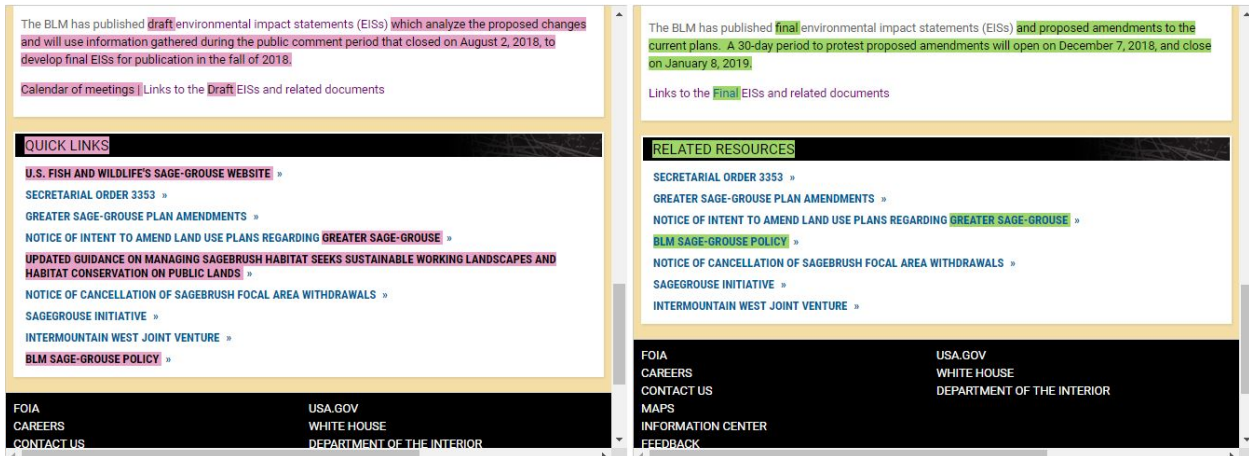
- [U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE'S SAGE-GROUSE WEBSITE](#)
- [SECRETARIAL ORDER 3353](#)
- [GREATER SAGE-GROUSE PLAN AMENDMENTS](#)
- [NOTICE OF INTENT TO AMEND LAND USE PLANS REGARDING GREATER SAGE-GROUSE](#)
- [UPDATED GUIDANCE ON MANAGING SAGEBRUSH HABITAT SEEKS SUSTAINABLE WORKING LANDSCAPES AND HABITAT CONSERVATION ON PUBLIC LANDS](#)
- [NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF SAGEBRUSH FOCAL AREA WITHDRAWALS](#)
- [SAGEGROUSE INITIATIVE](#)
- [INTERMOUNTAIN WEST JOINT VENTURE](#)
- [BLM SAGE-GROUSE POLICY](#)

Links as of December 8, 2018:

- [SECRETARIAL ORDER 3353](#)
- [GREATER SAGE-GROUSE PLAN AMENDMENTS](#)
- [NOTICE OF INTENT TO AMEND LAND USE PLANS REGARDING GREATER SAGE-GROUSE](#)
- [BLM SAGE-GROUSE POLICY](#)
- [NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF SAGEBRUSH FOCAL AREA WITHDRAWALS](#)
- [SAGEGROUSE INITIATIVE](#)
- [INTERMOUNTAIN WEST JOINT VENTURE](#)



Screenshot 2.5



Screenshot 2.6. Note that the link addresses to “BLM Sage-Grouse Policy” and “Notice of Intent to Amend Land Use Plans Regarding Greater Sage-Grouse” are the same in both versions of the page.

Page 3: STATE SAGE-GROUSE EFFORTS

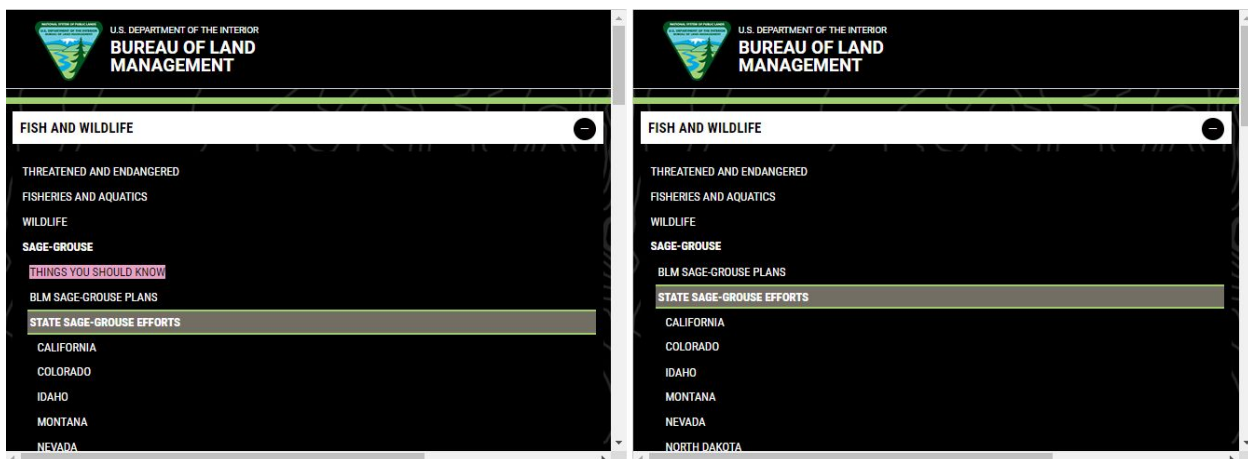
- URL:
<https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/state-sagegrouse-efforts>
- Text and image changes; removal of links to state efforts
- Changes in screenshots 3.1 and 3.2 occurred between **March 15, 2018 7:25 AM EDT and May 3, 2018 3:09 AM EDT.**
- Changes in screenshots 3.3 and 3.4 occurred between **August 3, 2018 12:16 AM EDT and August 30, 2018 8:54 AM EDT.**
- Changes in screenshot 3.5 occurred between **November 30, 2018 2:03 AM EST and December 7, 2018 9:25 PM EST.**
- Internet Archive Wayback Machine link (most recent version in Wayback Machine is August 8, 2017):
<https://web.archive.org/web/20170808131705/https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/state-sagegrouse-efforts>

Screenshots 3.1, 3.2:

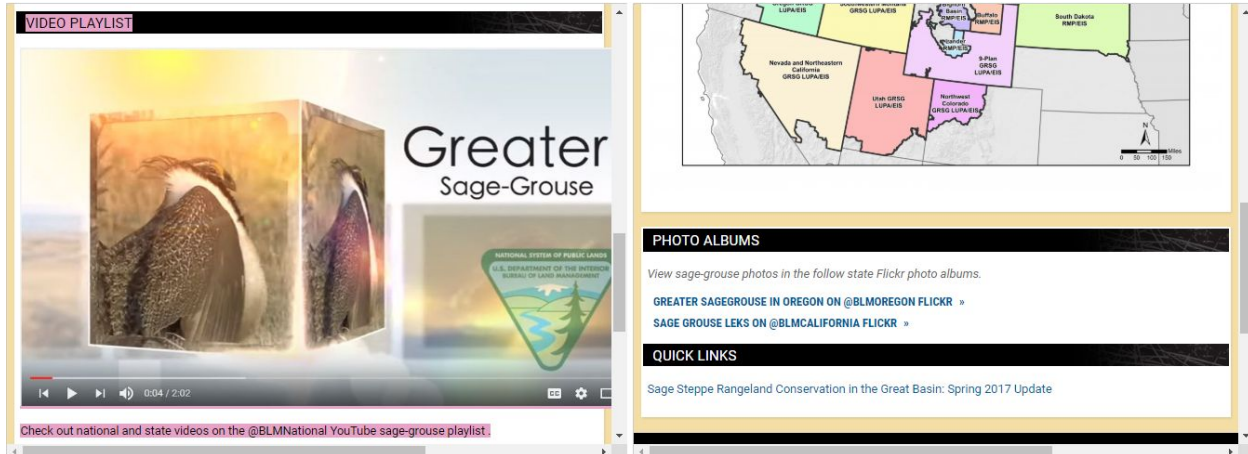
Changes observed in screenshots 3.1 and 3.2 occurred between March 15, 2018 and May 3, 2018.

(3.1a) Removal of *Things You Should Know* menu item between March 15, 2018 and May 3, 2018 (which corresponds to removal of this page, see [Page 1](#))

(3.2a) Removal of one YouTube video about the sage grouse.



Screenshot 3.1



Screenshot 3.2

Screenshot 3.3:

Changes observed in screenshot 3.3 occurred between August 3, 2018 and August 8, 2018.

(3.3a) Text changes and removal of links to state sage-grouse efforts pages. Note that the state sage-grouse efforts pages (to which this page linked) were all deleted by August 10, 2018 (see [pages 7-15](#) of this report).

Text as of August 3, 2018:

State Sage-Grouse Efforts

Because ***Greater Sage-Grouse habitat crosses all ownership jurisdictions in 11 states, federal and state management plans are important for addressing threats to the species. No one state or federal agency can by itself conserve the sage-grouse. Learn how we are working together with our partners in your state to conserve sagebrush for both*** wildlife and people.

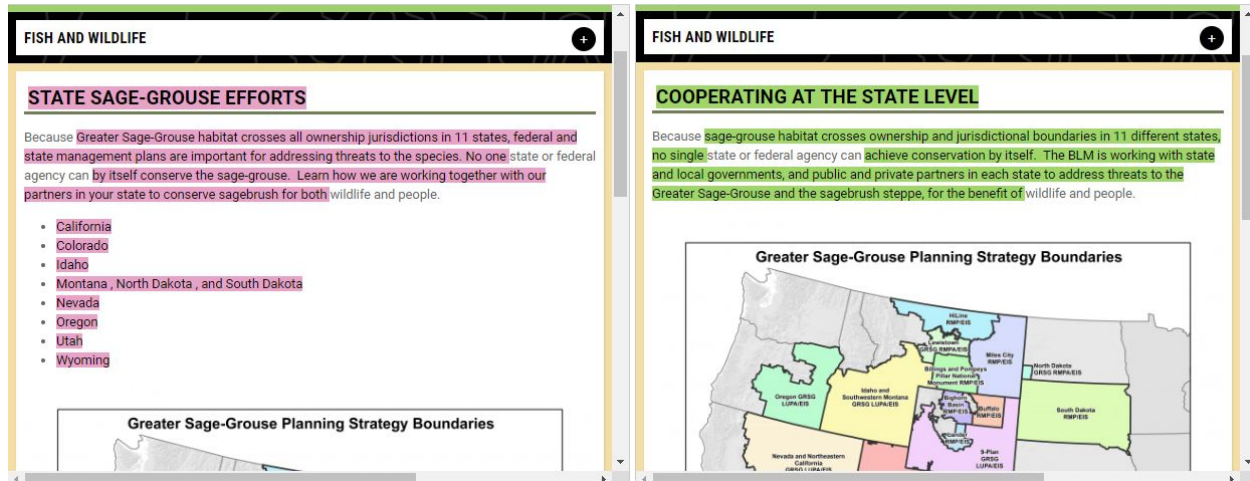
(EDGI note: The links in the following list are to the most recent versions of those pages found in the Internet Archive Wayback Machine.)

- [California](#)
- [Colorado](#)
- [Idaho](#)
- [Montana , North Dakota , and South Dakota](#)
- [Nevada](#)
- [Oregon](#)
- [Utah](#)
- [Wyoming](#)

Text as of August 8, 2018:

Cooperating at the State Level

Because **sage-grouse habitat crosses ownership and jurisdictional boundaries in 11 different states, no single** state or federal agency can **achieve conservation by itself**. The BLM is working with **state and local governments, and public and private partners in each state to address threats to the Greater Sage-Grouse and the sagebrush steppe, for the benefit of** wildlife and people.



Screenshot 3.3

Screenshot 3.4:

Changes observed in screenshot 3.4 occurred between August 8, 2018 and August 30, 2018.

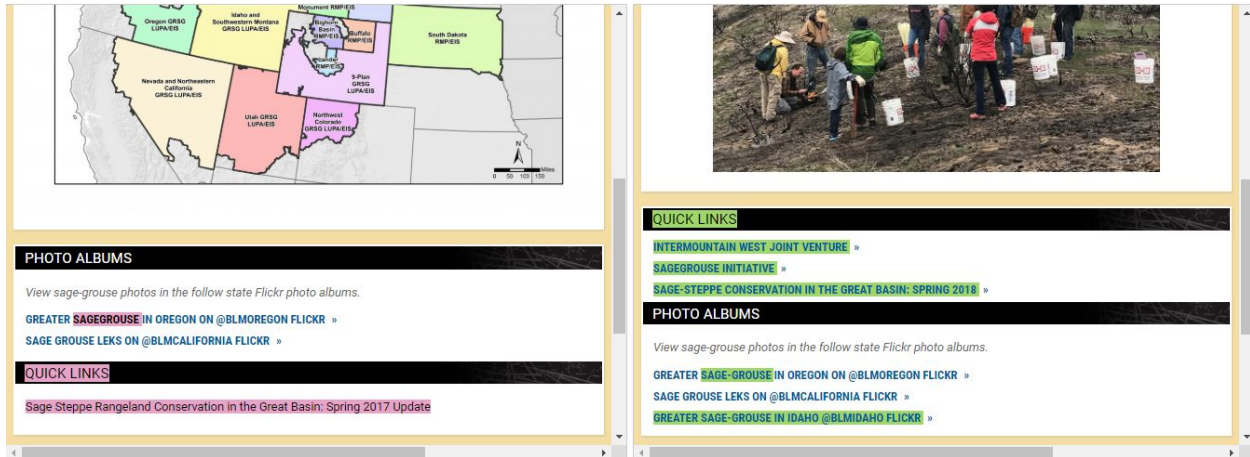
(3.4a) Image change

As of August 8th, the page featured an image of a map showing the [2015 Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy Boundaries](#), however as of August 30, 2018 it was replaced with an untitled image (without alt-text, though with a filename of Rehabworkinburnedarea.jpg) of a group of people in a burned area with buckets.

(3.4b) Changes to QUICK LINKS section and PHOTO ALBUMS section

- Removal from Quick Links
 - [Sage Steppe Rangeland Conservation in the Great Basin: Spring 2017 Update](#)
- Additions to Quick Links
 - [INTERMOUNTAIN WEST JOINT VENTURE](#)
 - [SAGEGROUSE INITIATIVE](#)
 - [SAGE-STEPPE CONSERVATION IN THE GREAT BASIN: SPRING 2018](#)

- Addition to Photo Albums
 - [GREATER SAGE-GROUSE IN IDAHO @BLMIDAHO FLICKR](#)

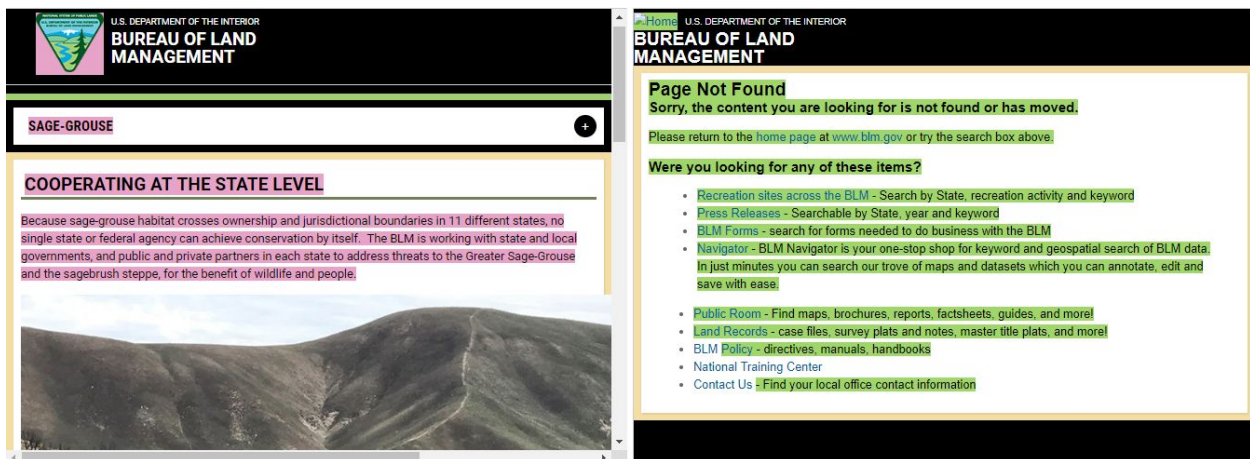


Screenshot 3.4

Screenshot 3.5:

Changes observed in screenshot 3.5 occurred between November 30, 2018 and December 7, 2018.

(3.5a) Page removed. The BLM State Sage Grouse Efforts webpage is no longer available.



Screenshot 3.5

Page 4: BLM GREATER SAGE-GROUSE PLANS

- URL:
<https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/blm-sagegrouse-plans>
- Text changes
- Changes in screenshots 4.1, 4.2, and 4.3 occurred between **June 5, 2018 1:09 PM EDT** and **June 13, 2018 9:06 AM EDT**
- Changes in screenshot 4.4 and 4.5 occurred between **November 30, 2018 10:01 AM EST** and **December 8, 2018 5:24 AM EST**
- Internet Archive Wayback Machine links
 - Closest pre-changes (August 2017):
<https://web.archive.org/web/20170808130837/https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/blm-sagegrouse-plans>
 - Closest post-changes (December 2018):
<https://web.archive.org/web/20181208204313/https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/blm-sagegrouse-plans>

Screenshots 4.1, 4.2, 4.3:

Changes observed in screenshots 4.1 - 4.3 occurred between June 5, 2018 and June 13, 2018.

(4.1a, 4.2a) Text overhaul regarding BLM Greater Sage-grouse Plans, including removing links to draft environmental impact statements of amendments to sage grouse management plans, and removing information about and links to pages describing sage grouse management plan approaches and implementation. Some of this information (but not all) was transferred to the “Implementing the BLM’s Greater Sage-Grouse Plans” page (see [Page 5](#)).

Text as of June 5, 2018:

BLM Greater Sage-grouse Plans

The BLM manages much of the best remaining sagebrush habitat for the Greater Sage-Grouse. As part of an unprecedented effort by dozens of partners across 11 western states, it has developed land use plans to conserve this habitat. These plans benefit not only the Greater Sage-Grouse, but some 350 other species of wildlife that rely on the sagebrush sea, and the many, many people who depend on it for their livelihoods and a source of recreation.

We’re not working alone. The U.S. Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation service are working alongside us, as are the western states and

countless private land owners, with plans of their own. Where ever possible, we're coordinating our efforts.

These plans focus on conserving and restoring the most valuable lands for maintaining the Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat, places where the bird reproduces and sites with high quality sagebrush. They share three common approaches:

- **Protecting intact habitat by capping the amount of disturbance on these lands and establishing buffers around the bird's breeding grounds.**
- **Improving sagebrush habitat that has been damaged by wildfire, weed invasions and development.**
- **Reducing the threat of rangeland fire that can turn productive sagebrush habitat into weed-filled wastelands, particularly in the Great Basin region of Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Oregon and California.**

Because of all these coordinated efforts, in 2015 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service **determined** that the Greater Sage-Grouse did not need **the protections of** the Endangered Species Act. **We are confident that our plans will not only benefit the greater sage-grouse, but will also preserve the West's heritage of ranching and outdoor recreation; protect hundreds of wildlife** species that also rely on sagebrush **habitat**, such as pronghorn, mule deer and golden **eagles; and promote** balance between conservation and development.

[Read about how we are implementing the BLM's Greater Sage-Grouse plans .](#)
[Learn about cancellation of sagebrush focal area withdrawal .](#)

(EDGI note: page no longer accessible; the most recent page in the Internet Archive Wayback Machine is linked.)

[Learn about the 2018 Greater Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments and draft environmental \[sic\] impact statements.](#)

Text as of June 13, 2018:

BLM Greater Sage-grouse Plans

In September 2015 the BLM adopted resource management plans for conserving Greater Sage-Grouse habitat on federal public lands in 11 Western states that were instrumental in the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determination](#) that the Greater Sage-Grouse did not need **protections under the Endangered Species Act.**

Nearly three years of experience show which provisions of the plans are working and what needs adjustment. With partners at the state and local levels, we are taking the opportunity to build on the 2015 plans and strengthen them in

benefiting the Greater Sage-Grouse and hundreds of other species that also rely on sagebrush **habitat** – such as pronghorn, mule deer and golden **eagles** – **while also promoting** balance between conservation and development.

The BLM is currently working to better align the 2015 plans with respective state Greater Sage-Grouse plans and has proposed amendments developed with input and feedback from governors, state wildlife managers and other stakeholders. The draft plan amendments build on the 2015 plans by providing increased management flexibility and access to public lands, and better alignment with state plans for managing sage-grouse as a wildlife species.

The BLM will hold <<public meetings across the West beginning June 21, 2018>>, to provide information and answer questions regarding the recently released draft amendments and assist those wishing to comment on the draft plan amendments in formulating submissions before the comment period ends on August 2, 2018.

The BLM looks forward to comments that will help us continue the efforts the 2015 plans represent.

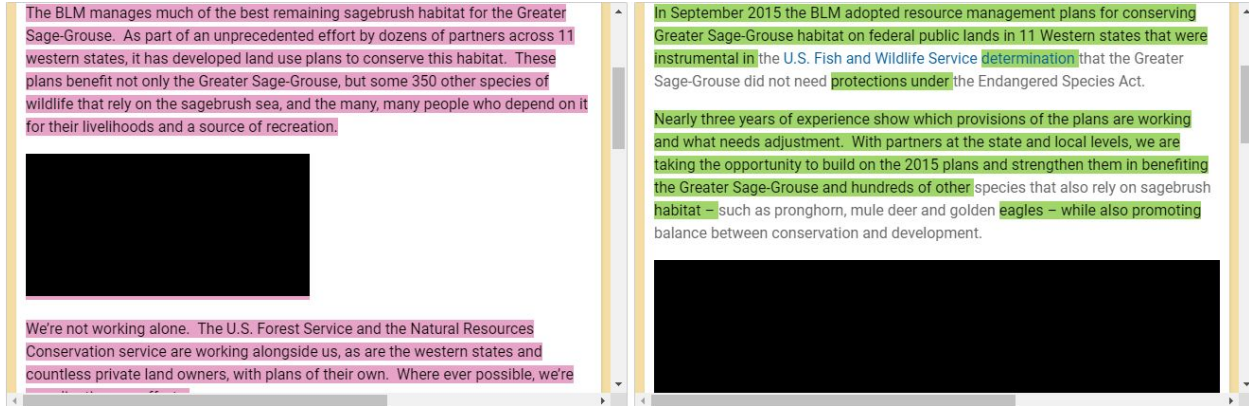
(4.3a) Changes to the PARTNER WEBSITES section

Links as of June 5, 2018:

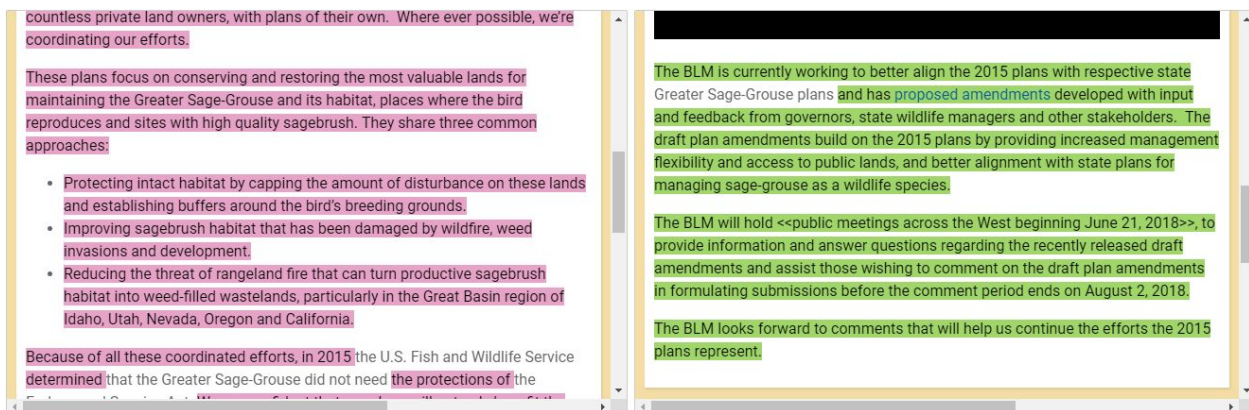
- [FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE](#)
- [NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE](#) (EDGI note: same link address as “Sagegrouse Initiative” below)
- [INTERMOUNTAIN JOINT VENTURE](#)

Links as of June 13, 2018:

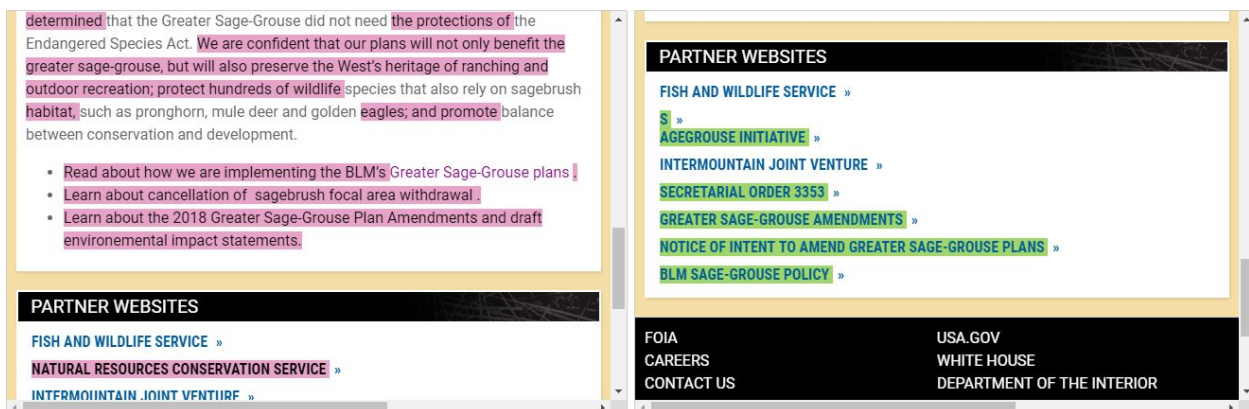
- [FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE](#)
- [SAGEGROUSE INITIATIVE](#) (EDGI note: same link address as “Natural Resources Conservation Service” above)
- [INTERMOUNTAIN JOINT VENTURE](#)
- [SECRETARIAL ORDER 3353](#)
- [GREATER SAGE-GROUSE AMENDMENTS](#)
- [NOTICE OF INTENT TO AMEND GREATER SAGE-GROUSE PLANS](#)
- [BLM SAGE-GROUSE POLICY](#)



Screenshot 4.1:



Screenshot 4.2



Screenshot 4.3

Screenshot 4.4, 4.5:

Changes observed in screenshots 4.4 and 4.5 occurred between November 30, 2018 and December 8, 2018.

(4.4a) Removal of menu bar link to *State Sage Grouse Efforts* page. This corresponds to the removal of that page (see 3.5a).

(4.4b) Language and content were changed, including the removal of all mentions of the 2015 sage grouse resource management plans, and the addition of explanations about the proposed benefits of the amendments. Text additions assert that increased management flexibility would allow states to manage to their particular needs, and that increased access to public lands and resources ensures “shared stewardship...to benefit wildlife and recreation and support local economies.”

Text as of November 30, 2018:

In September 2015 the BLM adopted resource management plans for conserving Greater Sage-Grouse habitat on federal public lands in 11 Western states that were instrumental in the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determination](#) that the Greater Sage-Grouse did not need protections under the Endangered Species Act.

Nearly three years of experience show which provisions of the plans are working and what needs adjustment. With partners at the state and local levels, we are taking the opportunity to build on the 2015 plans and strengthen them in benefiting the Greater Sage-Grouse and hundreds of other species that also rely on sagebrush habitat – such as pronghorn, mule deer and golden eagles – while also promoting balance between conservation and development.

The BLM is currently working to better align the 2015 plans with respective state Greater Sage-Grouse plans and has [proposed amendments](#) developed with input and feedback from governors, state wildlife managers and other stakeholders. The draft plan amendments build on the 2015 plans by providing increased management flexibility and access to public lands, and better alignment with state plans for managing sage-grouse as a wildlife species.

The BLM is developing final environmental impact statements (EISs) on the proposed amendments using information submitted during before the comment period ends that closed on August 2, 2018. Publication of final EISs is scheduled for the fall of 2018.

Text as of December 8, 2018:

Experience with existing plans for managing sage-grouse habitat on public lands shows which provisions are working and what needs adjustment. With partners at the state and local levels, the BLM is aligning these plans to conserve sagebrush habitat – for sage-grouse and other species such as pronghorn, mule deer and golden eagles – with respective state wildlife plans for conserving sage-grouse

populations to strike a regulatory balance and build greater trust among neighboring interests in Western communities.

Developing the [proposed amendments](#) with input and feedback from governors, state wildlife managers and other **stakeholders** has reinvigorated the Department of the Interior's commitment to collaborating with our neighbors in conserving sage-grouse populations across the West. The proposed plan amendments provide increased management flexibility and access to public lands, and better alignment with state plans for managing sage-grouse as a wildlife species. In the end, this will allow for more immediate conservation action on the ground.

Greater flexibility ensures that each state can manage to the particular needs of its habitats, landscapes and communities.

Increased access to public lands and resources ensures shared stewardship of sagebrush landscapes to benefit wildlife and recreation and support local economies.

(4.5a) Changes to Related Resources section and addition of State Resources section. The State Resources section includes links to seven states, but does not provide links to Montana, North Dakota, or South Dakota, which have sage grouse resource management plans. The RMPs of Montana and the Dakotas were not included in the coordinated plan amendments of 2018.

Links from Related Resources section as of November 30, 2018:

RELATED RESOURCES

- [FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE](#)
- [SAGEGROUSE INITIATIVE](#)
- [INTERMOUNTAIN JOINT VENTURE](#)
- [SECRETARIAL ORDER 3353](#)
- [GREATER SAGE-GROUSE AMENDMENTS](#)
- [NOTICE OF INTENT TO AMEND GREATER SAGE-GROUSE PLANS](#)
- [BLM SAGE-GROUSE POLICY](#)

Links in Related Resources and State Resources sections as of December 8, 2018:

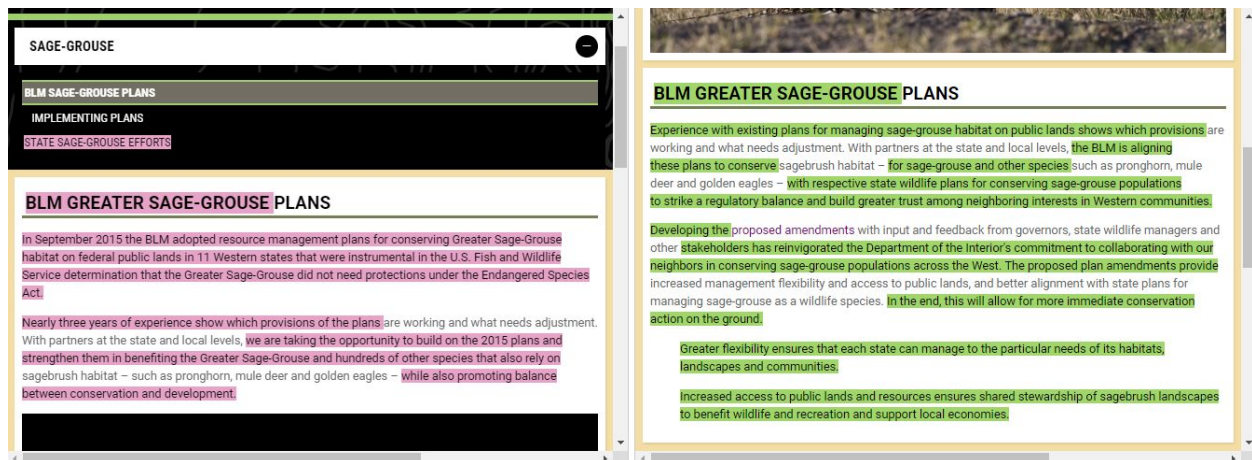
RELATED RESOURCES

- [SECRETARIAL ORDER 3353](#)
- [GREATER SAGE-GROUSE AMENDMENTS](#)
- [NOTICE OF INTENT TO AMEND GREATER SAGE-GROUSE PLANS](#)

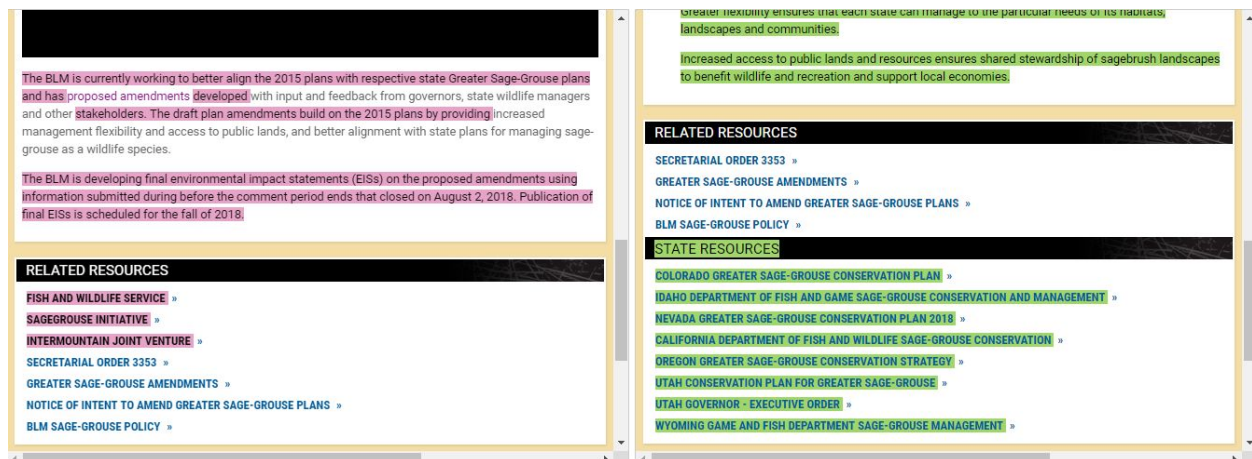
- [BLM SAGE-GROUSE POLICY](#)

STATE RESOURCES

- [COLORADO GREATER SAGE-GROUSE CONSERVATION PLAN](#)
- [IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME SAGE-GROUSE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT](#)
- [NEVADA GREATER SAGE-GROUSE CONSERVATION PLAN 2018](#)
- [CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE SAGE-GROUSE CONSERVATION](#)
- [OREGON GREATER SAGE-GROUSE CONSERVATION STRATEGY](#)
- [UTAH CONSERVATION PLAN FOR GREATER SAGE-GROUSE](#)
- [UTAH GOVERNOR - EXECUTIVE ORDER](#)
- [WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT SAGE-GROUSE MANAGEMENT](#)



Screenshot 4.4



Screenshot 4.5

PAGE 5: IMPLEMENTING THE BLM'S GREATER SAGE-GROUSE PLANS

- URL:
<https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/blm-sagegrouse-plans/implementing-plans>
- Text changes
- Changes in screenshots 5.1 and 5.2 occurred between **June 5, 2018 8:00 AM EDT** and **June 13, 2018 3:45 AM EDT**.
- Changes in screenshots 5.3 and 5.4 occurred between **December 1, 2018 11:12 PM EST** and **December 7, 2018 7:38 PM EST**.
- Internet Archive Wayback Machine link (most recent version, August 2017):
<https://web.archive.org/web/20170808130933/https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/blm-sagegrouse-plans/implementing-plans>

Screenshot 5.1, 5.2:

Changes observed in screenshots 5.1 and 5.2 occurred between June 5, 2018 and June 13, 2018.

(5.1a, 5.2a) Text changes, including the addition of a section about the cancellation of applications for withdrawal of sagebrush focal areas from potential mining (including oil and gas development).

Text as of June 5, 2018:

The Bureau of Land Management has finalized land use plans that will conserve key sagebrush habitat, address identified threats to the greater sage-grouse and promote sustainable economic development in the West. The plans were a critical component that helped the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conclude that the rangeland bird no longer warrants protection under the Endangered Species Act.

As part of an unprecedented and proactive partnership to conserve the uniquely American habitat that supports iconic wildlife, outdoor recreation, ranching and other traditional land uses, the BLM is continuing to work with its partners to ensure the conservation of the west's sagebrush habitats. We've held a number of workshops throughout sage-grouse habitat to help familiarize people with the steps we are taking to turn the plans from huge paper documents into on-the-ground success stories.

In December 2017, the BLM issued revised implementation policies, known as Instruction Memorandums (IMs), detailing how these plans ***will be implemented***. ***The IMs cover oil and gas leasing and development, grazing, and the collection and use of land management data.*** You can view the IM's by the quick links on this page.

Text as of June 13, 2018:

The BLM continuing [sic] to work with its partners to ensure the conservation of ***sagebrush habitat on western public lands that face various threats identified in the resource management plans adopted in 2015.***

We're working alongside the U.S. Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service , the Western states and countless private land owners to turn the plans from huge paper documents into on-the-ground success stories. Wherever possible, we're coordinating our efforts with these partners' own plans to conserve and restore the most valuable lands for maintaining the Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat, places where the bird reproduces and sites with high quality sagebrush.

There are three common approaches:

- ***Protecting intact habitat by capping the amount of disturbance on these lands and establishing buffers around the bird's breeding grounds.***
- ***Improving sagebrush habitat that has been damaged by wildfire, weed invasions and development.***
- ***Reducing the threat of rangeland fire that can turn productive sagebrush habitat into weed-filled wastelands, particularly in the Great Basin region of Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Oregon and northeastern California.***

Additionally, in December 2017, the BLM issued revised policies, known as Instruction Memorandums (IMs), detailing how these plans are ***put into action in decisions at the field level.*** You can view the IMs using the Quick Links on this page.

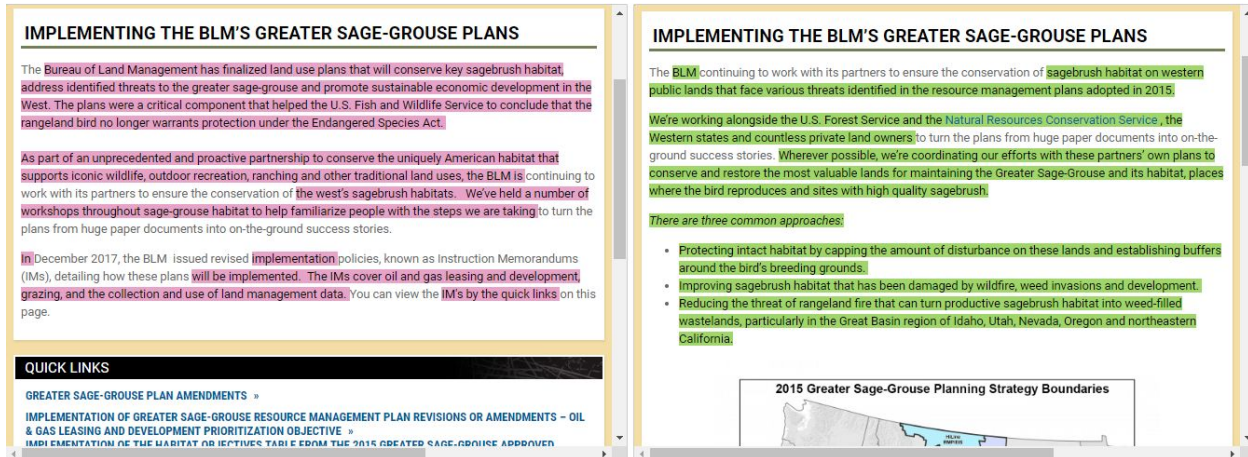
The BLM, Western governors and state wildlife agencies are currently working to build on the 2015 plans. Proposed amendments are intended to better align federal plans with respective state plans and reflect complementary federal and state roles, in the interest of strengthening plans at all levels and improving on-the-ground outcomes.

Sagebrush Focal Area Withdrawal

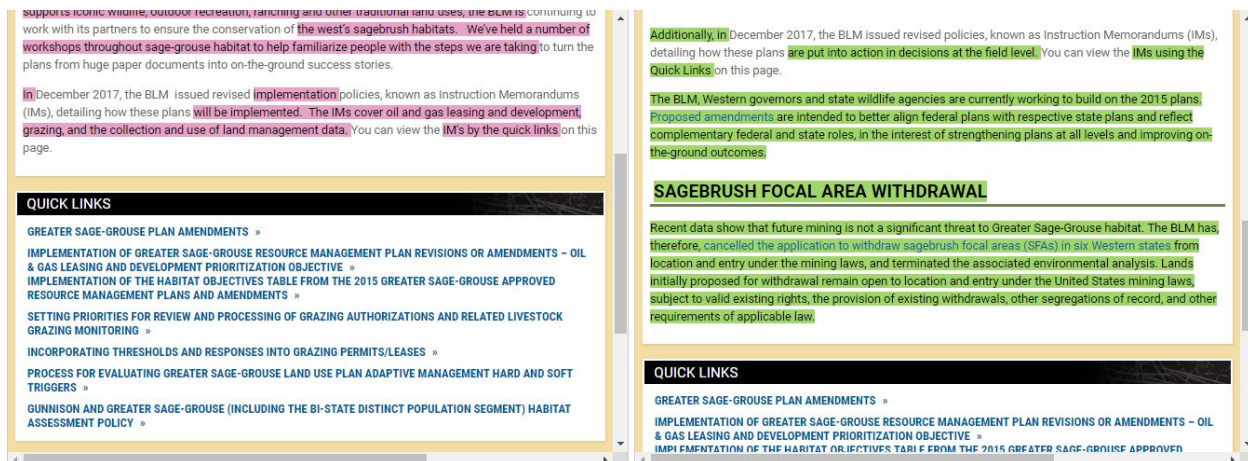
Recent data show that future mining is not a significant threat to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat. The BLM has, therefore, [cancelled the application to withdraw sagebrush focal areas \(SFAs\) in six Western states](#) from location and entry under the mining laws, and terminated the associated environmental analysis. Lands initially proposed for withdrawal remain open to location and entry under the United States mining laws, subject to valid existing rights, the

provision of existing withdrawals, other segregations of record, and other requirements of applicable law.

(5.1b) Image added - [2015 Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy Boundaries](#)



Screenshot 5.1



Screenshot 5.2

Screenshots 5.3, 5.4:

Changes observed in screenshots 5.3 and 5.4 occurred between December 1, 2018 and December 7, 2018.

(5.3a) Text changes to the **Implementing the BLM's Greater Sage-grouse Plans** section, including altering language from "capping the amount of disturbance" to "managing disturbances" in intact habitat and removing the clause "establishing buffers around the bird's breeding grounds."

Text as of December 1, 2018:

IMPLEMENTING THE BLM'S GREATER SAGE-GROUSE PLANS

The BLM continuing [sic] to work with its partners to ensure the conservation of sagebrush habitat on western public lands that face various threats identified in the resource management plans adopted in 2015.

We're working alongside the U.S. Forest Service and the [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#), the Western states and countless private land owners to turn the plans from huge paper documents into on-the-ground success stories. Wherever possible, we're coordinating our efforts with these partners' own plans to conserve and restore the most valuable lands for maintaining the Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat, places where the bird reproduces and sites with **high quality** sagebrush.

There are three common approaches:

- ***Protecting intact habitat by capping the amount of disturbance on these lands and establishing buffers around the bird's breeding grounds.***
- Improving sagebrush habitat that has been damaged by wildfire, weed invasions and development.
- Reducing the threat of rangeland fire that can turn productive sagebrush habitat into weed-filled wastelands, particularly in the Great Basin region of Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Oregon and northeastern California.

Additionally, in December 2017, the BLM issued revised policies, known as Instruction Memorandums (IMs), detailing how these plans are put into action in decisions at the field level. You can view the IMs using the Quick Links on this page.

The BLM, Western governors and state wildlife agencies are currently working to build on the 2015 plans. [Proposed amendments](#) are intended to better align federal plans with respective state plans and reflect complementary federal and state roles, in the interest of strengthening plans at all levels and improving on-the-ground outcomes.

Text as of December 7, 2018:

PUTTING PLANS INTO ACTION

When working to transform management plans on paper into on-the-ground success stories, being a good neighbor is good for conservation. The BLM, Western governors and state wildlife agencies in cooperation with other stakeholders and partners have [proposed amendments](#) to update existing plans intended to better align federal plans with respective state plans and reflect complementary federal

and state roles, all in the interest of strengthening plans at all levels and improving on-the-ground outcomes.

Successful conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse requires shared stewardship among states, private citizens, landowners and federal land management agencies like the BLM. Wherever possible, the BLM coordinates with partners to conserve and restore the most valuable lands for maintaining the Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat, places where the bird reproduces and sites with **high-quality** sagebrush.

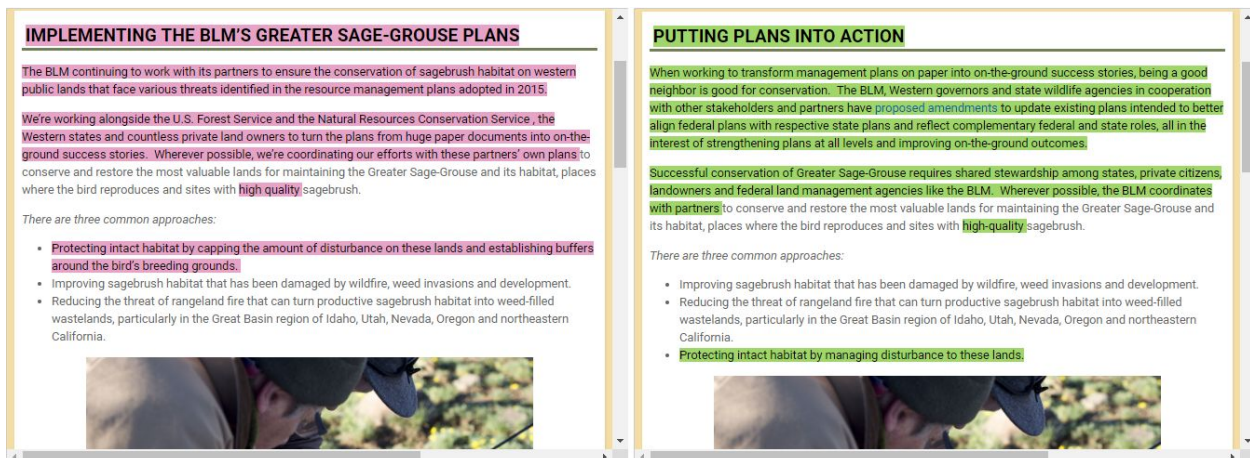
There are three common approaches:

- Improving sagebrush habitat that has been damaged by wildfire, weed invasions and development.
- Reducing the threat of rangeland fire that can turn productive sagebrush habitat into weed-filled wastelands, particularly in the Great Basin region of Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Oregon and northeastern California.
- **Protecting intact habitat by managing disturbance to these lands.**

In December 2017, the BLM issued revised policies, known as Instruction Memorandums (IMs), detailing how these plans are put into action in decisions at the field level. You can view the IMs using the Quick Links on this page.

(5.4a) Minor changes to the Sagebrush Focal Area Withdrawal section.

(5.4b) Renaming of the **Quick Links** section to **Planning and Policy Documents**.



Screenshot 5.3

Additionally, in December 2017, the BLM issued revised policies, known as Instruction Memorandums (IMs), detailing how these plans are put into action in decisions at the field level. You can view the IMs using the Quick Links on this page.

The BLM, Western governors and state wildlife agencies are currently working to build on the 2015 plans. Proposed amendments are intended to better align federal plans with respective state plans and reflect complementary federal and state roles, in the interest of strengthening plans at all levels and improving on the ground outcomes.

SAGEBRUSH FOCAL AREA WITHDRAWAL

Recent data show that future mining is not a significant threat to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat. The BLM has therefore, cancelled the application to withdraw sagebrush focal areas (SFAs) in six Western states from location and entry under the mining laws, and terminated the associated environmental analysis. Lands initially proposed for withdrawal remain open to location and entry under the United States mining laws, subject to valid existing rights, the provision of existing withdrawals, other segregations of record, and other requirements of applicable law.

QUICK LINKS

- [GREATER SAGE-GROUSE PLAN AMENDMENTS »](#)
- [IMPLEMENTATION OF GREATER SAGE-GROUSE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISIONS OR AMENDMENTS – OIL & GAS LEASING AND DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIZATION OBJECTIVE »](#)
- [IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HABITAT OBJECTIVES TABLE FROM THE 2015 GREATER SAGE-GROUSE APPROVED](#)

In December 2017, the BLM issued revised policies, known as Instruction Memorandums (IMs), detailing how these plans are put into action in decisions at the field level. You can view the IMs using the Quick Links on this page.

SAGEBRUSH FOCAL AREA WITHDRAWAL

In light of recent data showing that future mining is not a significant threat to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, the BLM cancelled the application to withdraw sagebrush focal areas (SFAs) in six Western states from location and entry under the mining laws, and terminated the associated environmental analysis. Lands initially proposed for withdrawal remain open to location and entry under the United States mining laws, subject to valid existing rights, the provision of existing withdrawals, other segregations of record, and other requirements of applicable law.

PLANNING AND POLICY DOCUMENTS

- [GREATER SAGE-GROUSE PLAN AMENDMENTS »](#)
- [IMPLEMENTATION OF GREATER SAGE-GROUSE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISIONS OR AMENDMENTS – OIL & GAS LEASING AND DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIZATION OBJECTIVE »](#)
- [IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HABITAT OBJECTIVES TABLE FROM THE 2015 GREATER SAGE-GROUSE APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS AND AMENDMENTS »](#)
- [SETTING PRIORITIES FOR REVIEW AND PROCESSING OF GRAZING AUTHORIZATIONS AND RELATED LIVESTOCK GRAZING MONITORING »](#)
- [INCORPORATING THRESHOLDS AND RESPONSES INTO GRAZING PERMITS/LEASES »](#)

Screenshot 5.4

PAGE 6: SAGEBRUSH FOCAL AREA WITHDRAWAL CANCELLATION

- URL:
<https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/blm-sagegrouse-plans/minerals-withdrawals>
- Text changes; page removal
- Changes in screenshots 6.1 - 6.5 occurred between **March 14, 2018 11:14 AM EDT** and **May 4, 2018 5:26 AM EDT**.
- Changes in screenshot 6.6 (page removal) occurred between **June 6, 2018 10:25 AM EDT** and **June 12, 2018 7:20 AM EDT**.
- Internet Archive Wayback Machine links:
 - Closest pre-changes (August 8, 2017):
<https://web.archive.org/web/20170808132406/https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/blm-sagegrouse-plans/minerals-withdrawals>
 - Closest post-change, pre-removal (May 15, 2018):
<https://web.archive.org/web/20180515221716/https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/blm-sagegrouse-plans/minerals-withdrawals>
 - Closest post-removal (December 8, 2018):
<https://web.archive.org/web/20181208205236/https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/blm-sagegrouse-plans/minerals-withdrawals>

Screenshot 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5:

Changes in screenshots 6.1 - 6.5 occurred between March 14, 2018 and May 4, 2018.

(6.1a-6.4a) Text overhaul, from explaining the sagebrush focal area proposed withdrawal to a short notice that the proposed withdrawals were cancelled.

Text as of March 14, 2018:

SAGEBRUSH FOCAL AREA PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL

The BLM and Forest Service greater sage-grouse land use plans approved in 2015 recommended that the Secretary of the Interior safeguard the most important habitat for the bird by withdrawing them from the Mining Law of 1872, subject to valid existing rights. These lands, covering about 10 million acres of federal lands, within Sagebrush Focal Areas (SFA) were identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as strongholds vital to the GRSG's persistence as a species. They are located in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming. You can review a fact sheet about the proposal [here](#).

Proposed Withdrawal and Temporary Segregation

The Department of the Interior published notice of the agencies' application for withdrawal on September 24, 2015, beginning what is known as a segregation of the lands that lasts for two years. This segregation, which lasts up to two years until the Secretary decides whether to make the withdrawal, prohibits the location and entry of new mining claims in the designated areas. The proposed withdrawal would affect most metallic mineral deposits, industrial minerals and uncommon varieties of stone. The withdrawal would not affect mineral leasing, such as for oil or gas, or mineral material sales. "Mining Claims and Sites on Federal Land" offers more information on this topic.

Neither the segregation nor the proposed withdrawal, if approved, prohibits any other authorized uses on these lands, such as grazing, recreation, OHV use, or development of leasable solid minerals, mineral materials, oil and gas, or geothermal resources.

- [Map of the September 24, 2015 proposed withdrawal](#) .
- ***For maps of the Amended Proposed Withdrawal, select your area of interest from the linked map . The extent of the amended proposed withdrawal is detailed by legal description (Exhibit B). The maps are provided for reference only.***
- ***To view the amended proposed withdrawal legal description, click below:***
- [Exhibit A: NV Alternative Additions](#)
- [Exhibit B: Amended Proposed Withdrawal](#)
- ***For Geographic Information System (GIS) data for the Amended Proposed Withdrawal and Draft EIS, [click here](#) .***

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

- ***The BLM has prepared a Draft EIS, which is available for review [here](#). Request a CD of the Draft EIS [here](#) .***
- [Fact Sheet on Proposed Withdrawal from Mineral Entry in Sagebrush Focal Areas](#)
- [Federal Register Notice](#)
- ***Comments are due March 30, 2017. You can submit your comments by email [here](#) . Alternatively, public meetings have been scheduled during the comment period. A list of dates and locations is available [here](#) . Get information about how to submit a comment, and how comments will be addressed [here](#).***
- ***The Draft EIS considers the impacts of a range of alternatives from changing the configuration and acreage of the withdrawal or not implementing the withdrawal (the "No Action" Alternative).***
- ***To view a map of the Proposed Action , the NV Alternative , the ID Alternative 1 or ID Alternative 2 select them [here](#). For maps of the High Mineral Potential Alternative , select your area of interest from the linked map.***

- ***For Geographic Information System (GIS) data for the Amended Proposed Withdrawal and Draft EIS [click here](#).***
- ***To view additional information from the Draft EIS Public meetings select them here: [Draft EIS Posters](#) | [Idaho Alternative Withdrawal Area Map](#) | [High Mineral Potential Alternative Withdrawal Area Map](#) | [Nevada Alternative Withdrawal Area Map](#) | [Proposed Action Withdrawal Area Map](#).***

Final Environmental Impact Statement

Based on the comments to the Draft EIS from our cooperators and the public, we will prepare a Final EIS and a Record of Decision (ROD) implementing that statement. When the Final EIS and ROD are completed they will be available here.

Withdrawal

If, after completing the analysis and associated public participation process, the Secretary decides to approve the withdrawal, it could be put in place for a maximum of 20 years. The withdrawal would not prohibit ongoing or future mining exploration or extraction operations on valid pre-existing claims. Neither the segregation nor the proposed withdrawal would prohibit any other authorized uses on these lands.

Text as of May 4, 2018:

SAGEBRUSH FOCAL AREA WITHDRAWAL CANCELLATION

Based on a recent analysis and review of data available that showed that future mining is not a significant threat to sage grouse habitat, the Bureau of Land Management has canceled its Sagebrush Focal Area withdrawal application and the Department's proposed withdrawal of 10 million acres of federal lands from location and entry under the mining law in Greater Sage-grouse habitat in six Western States. The BLM also terminated the associated environmental analysis process. The notice of cancellation can be found on the BLM website here: <https://on.doi.gov/2hOpRxn>.

(6.5a) Changes to **QUICK LINKS** section:

Links as of March 14, 2018:

- ***[Draft Sagebrush Focal Area Withdrawal Environmental Impact Statement](#)***
- ***[News Release on Draft EIS on Proposed Withdrawal](#)***
- ***[Mining Claims and Sites on Federal Land](#)***
- ***[USGS Minerals Potential Report](#)***

Links as of May 4, 2018:

- [Cancellation Notice of Sagebrush Focal Area Withdrawals](#)
- [Mining Claims and Sites on Federal Land](#)
- [USGS Minerals Potential Report](#)

SAGEBRUSH FOCAL AREA PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL

The BLM and Forest Service greater sage-grouse land use plans approved in 2015 recommended that the Secretary of the Interior safeguard the most important habitat for the bird by withdrawing them from the Mining Law of 1872, subject to valid existing rights. These lands, covering about 10 million acres of federal lands, within Sagebrush Focal Areas (SFA) were identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as strongholds vital to the GRSG's persistence as a species. They are located in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming.

You can review a fact sheet about the proposal here.

Proposed Withdrawal and Temporary Segregation

The Department of the Interior published notice of the agencies' application for withdrawal on September 24, 2015, beginning what is known as a segregation of the lands that lasts for two years. This segregation, which lasts up to two years until the Secretary decides whether to make the withdrawal, prohibits the location and entry of new mining claims in the designated areas. The proposed withdrawal would affect most metallic mineral deposits, industrial minerals and uncommon varieties of stone. The withdrawal would not affect mineral leasing, such as for oil or gas, or mineral material sales. "Mining Claims and Sites on Federal Land" offers more information on this topic.

Neither the segregation nor the proposed withdrawal, if approved, prohibits any other authorized uses on these lands, such as grazing, recreation, OHV use, or development of leasable solid minerals, mineral materials, oil and gas, or geothermal resources.

- Map of the September 24, 2015 proposed withdrawal.
- For maps of the Amended Proposed Withdrawal, select your area of interest from the linked map. The extent of the amended proposed withdrawal is detailed by legal description (Exhibit B). The maps are provided for reference only.

SAGEBRUSH FOCAL AREA WITHDRAWAL CANCELLATION

Based on a recent analysis and review of data available that showed that future mining is not a significant threat to sage grouse habitat, the Bureau of Land Management has canceled its Sagebrush Focal Area withdrawal application and the Department's proposed withdrawal of 10 million acres of federal lands from location and entry under the mining law in Greater Sage-grouse habitat in six Western States. The BLM also terminated the associated environmental analysis process. The notice of cancellation can be found on the BLM website here: <https://on.doi.gov/2hOpRxn>.

QUICK LINKS

[CANCELLATION NOTICE OF SAGEBRUSH FOCAL AREA WITHDRAWALS](#) »

Screenshot 6.1

lands that lasts for two years. This segregation, which lasts up to two years until the Secretary decides whether to make the withdrawal, prohibits the location and entry of new mining claims in the designated areas. The proposed withdrawal would affect most metallic mineral deposits, industrial minerals and uncommon varieties of stone. The withdrawal would not affect mineral leasing, such as for oil or gas, or mineral material sales. "Mining Claims and Sites on Federal Land" offers more information on this topic.

Neither the segregation nor the proposed withdrawal, if approved, prohibits any other authorized uses on these lands, such as grazing, recreation, OHV use, or development of leasable solid minerals, mineral materials, oil and gas, or geothermal resources.

- Map of the September 24, 2015 proposed withdrawal.
- For maps of the Amended Proposed Withdrawal, select your area of interest from the linked map. The extent of the amended proposed withdrawal is detailed by legal description (Exhibit B). The maps are provided for reference only.

SAGEBRUSH FOCAL AREA WITHDRAWAL CANCELLATION

Based on a recent analysis and review of data available that showed that future mining is not a significant threat to sage grouse habitat, the Bureau of Land Management has canceled its Sagebrush Focal Area withdrawal application and the Department's proposed withdrawal of 10 million acres of federal lands from location and entry under the mining law in Greater Sage-grouse habitat in six Western States. The BLM also terminated the associated environmental analysis process. The notice of cancellation can be found on the BLM website here: <https://on.doi.gov/2hOpRxn>.

QUICK LINKS

[CANCELLATION NOTICE OF SAGEBRUSH FOCAL AREA WITHDRAWALS](#) »

Screenshot 6.2

only.

- To view the amended proposed withdrawal legal description, click below:
- Exhibit A: NV Alternative Additions
- Exhibit B: Amended Proposed Withdrawal
- For Geographic Information System (GIS) data for the Amended Proposed Withdrawal and Draft EIS, click here.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

- The BLM has prepared a Draft EIS, which is available for review here. Request a CD of the Draft EIS here.
- Fact Sheet on Proposed Withdrawal from Mineral Entry in Sagebrush Focal Areas
- Federal Register Notice
- Comments are due March 30, 2017. You can submit your comments by email here. Alternatively, public meetings have been scheduled during the comment period. A list of dates and locations is available here. Get information about how to submit a comment, and how comments will be addressed here.
- The Draft EIS considers the impacts of a range of alternatives from changing

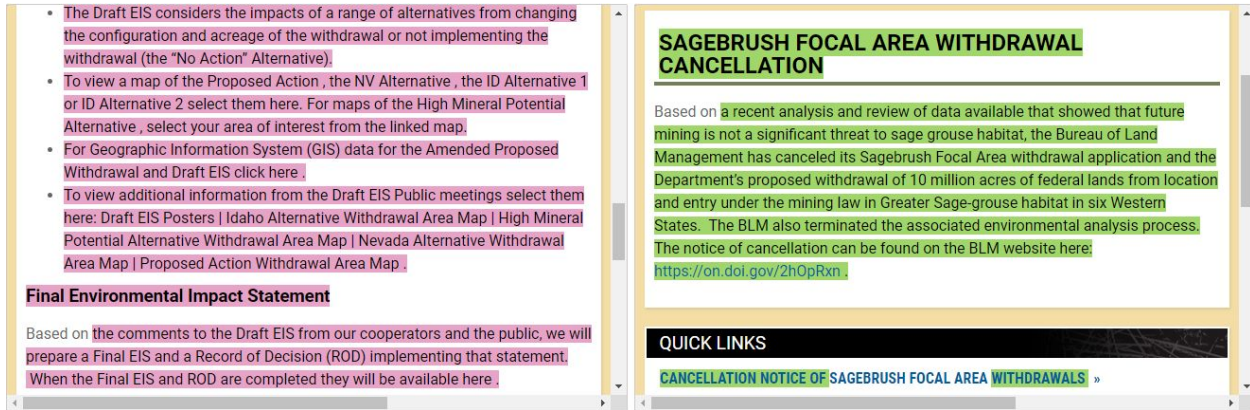
SAGEBRUSH FOCAL AREA WITHDRAWAL CANCELLATION

Based on a recent analysis and review of data available that showed that future mining is not a significant threat to sage grouse habitat, the Bureau of Land Management has canceled its Sagebrush Focal Area withdrawal application and the Department's proposed withdrawal of 10 million acres of federal lands from location and entry under the mining law in Greater Sage-grouse habitat in six Western States. The BLM also terminated the associated environmental analysis process. The notice of cancellation can be found on the BLM website here: <https://on.doi.gov/2hOpRxn>.

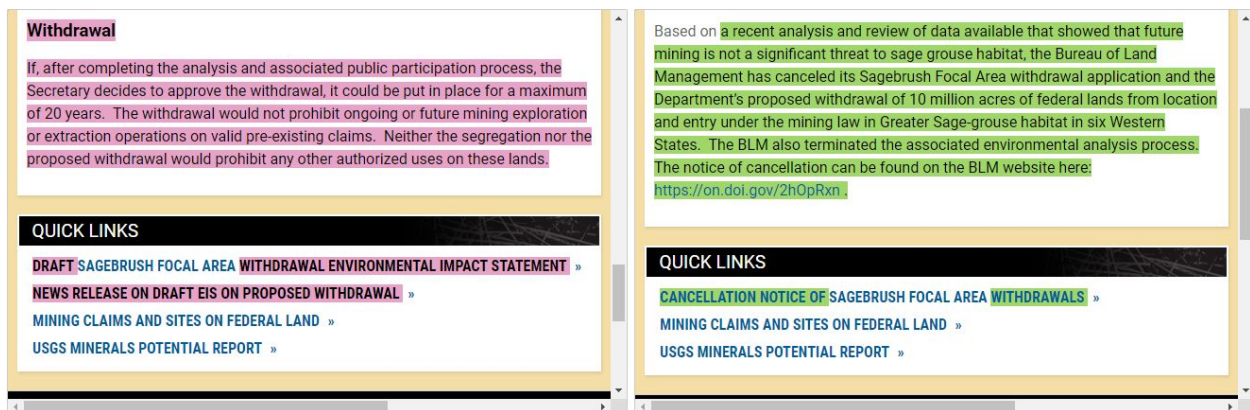
QUICK LINKS

[CANCELLATION NOTICE OF SAGEBRUSH FOCAL AREA WITHDRAWALS](#) »

Screenshot 6.3



Screenshot 6.4

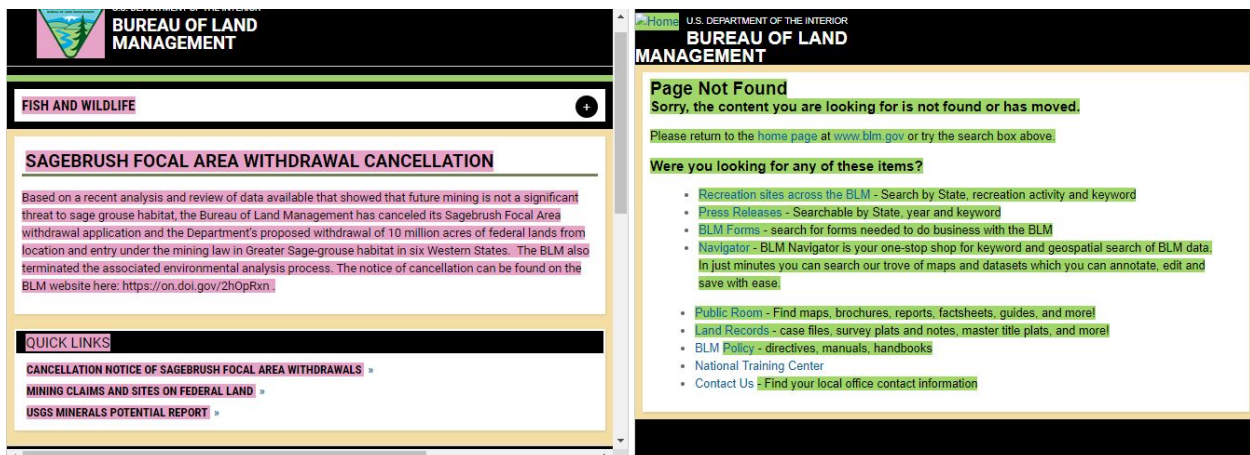


Screenshot 6.5

Screenshot 6.6

Changes observed in screenshot 6.3 occurred between June 6, 2018 and June 12, 2018.

(6.6a) Removal of this page six weeks after the changes described above (6.1 - 6.5).



Screenshot 6.6

State Sage-Grouse Efforts Pages

In the days or weeks before the public comment period opened on May 4, 2018, BLM removed the state-specific sage grouse conservation fact sheets from the nine state Sage-Grouse Efforts webpages (covering 10 states), along with the menu item “Things You Should Know About Greater Sage Grouse” (see [Page 1](#)). BLM also modified the content on two state pages, Oregon and Wyoming, during the period before May 3, 2018. On the Oregon page, BLM added information about the development of sage grouse management plan amendments. On the Wyoming page, BLM removed the clause, “Energy development and associated infrastructure is a predominant threat.” The comment period closed on August 2, 2018, and by August 10, 2018, BLM had removed all of the state Sage-Grouse Efforts pages. All of the state Sage-Grouse Efforts pages remained inaccessible for four months. The proposed amendments and final EISs were posted on December 6, 2018, and by December 8, 2018, BLM had restored three of the state-specific Sage-Grouse Efforts pages, for Idaho, Oregon, and Utah. The other six pages remain inaccessible as December 18, 2018.

For the state Sage-Grouse Efforts page changes described in this report (Pages 7 -15 below), representative screenshots are included; additional screenshots referenced are available upon request and are included in the screenshots folder accompanying this report.

Table of state Sage-Grouse Efforts pages

State	Sage-Grouse Effort page URL	Plan Amendments 2018	Link to Fact Sheet Removed (May 2018)	Page Removed (August 2018)	Page Restored (December 2018)
California and Nevada (Page 7)	https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/state-sagegrouse-efforts/nevada	yes	yes	yes	no
Colorado (Page 8)	https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/state-sagegrouse-efforts/colorado	yes	yes	yes	no
Idaho (Page 11)	https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/state-sagegrouse-efforts/idaho	yes	yes	yes	yes
Montana (Page 12)	https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/state-sagegrouse-efforts/montana	no	yes	yes	no
North Dakota (Page 9)	https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/state-sagegrouse-efforts/north-dakotas	no	yes	yes	no
Oregon (Page 13)	https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/state-sagegrouse-efforts/oregon	yes	yes	yes	yes
South Dakota (Page 10)	https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/state-sagegrouse-efforts/south-dakota	no	yes	yes	no
Utah (Page 14)	https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/state-sagegrouse-efforts/utah	yes	yes	yes	yes
Wyoming (Page 15)	https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/state-sagegrouse-efforts/wyoming	yes	yes	yes	no

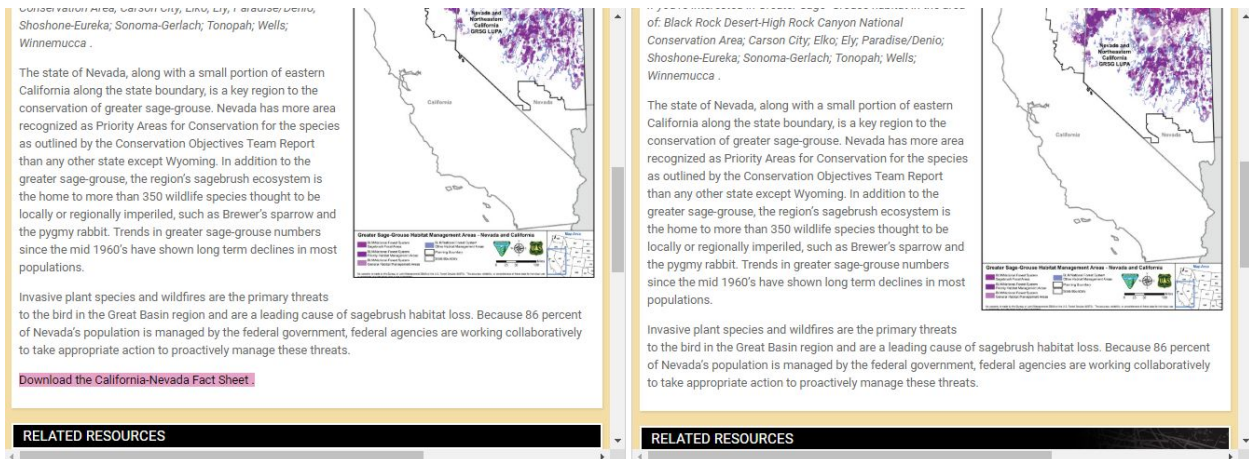
Page 7: GREATER SAGE-GROUSE IN NEVADA AND NORTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA

- URL: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/state-sagegrouse-efforts/nevada>
- Removal of link, menu item, and eventual page removal
- Changes occurred between **April 28, 2018 9:01 PM EDT** and **May 2, 2018 6:43 PM EDT**.
- Removal occurred between **June 26, 2018 11:44 AM EDT** and **August 8, 2018 10:41 AM EDT**.
- Most recent Wayback Machine link (August 8, 2017 9:21 AM EDT): <https://web.archive.org/web/20170808132120/https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/state-sagegrouse-efforts/nevada>

Screenshot 7.1:

(7.1a) Removal of link text and link URL to “Download the [California-Nevada Fact Sheet](#)” between April 28, 2018 and May 2, 2018.

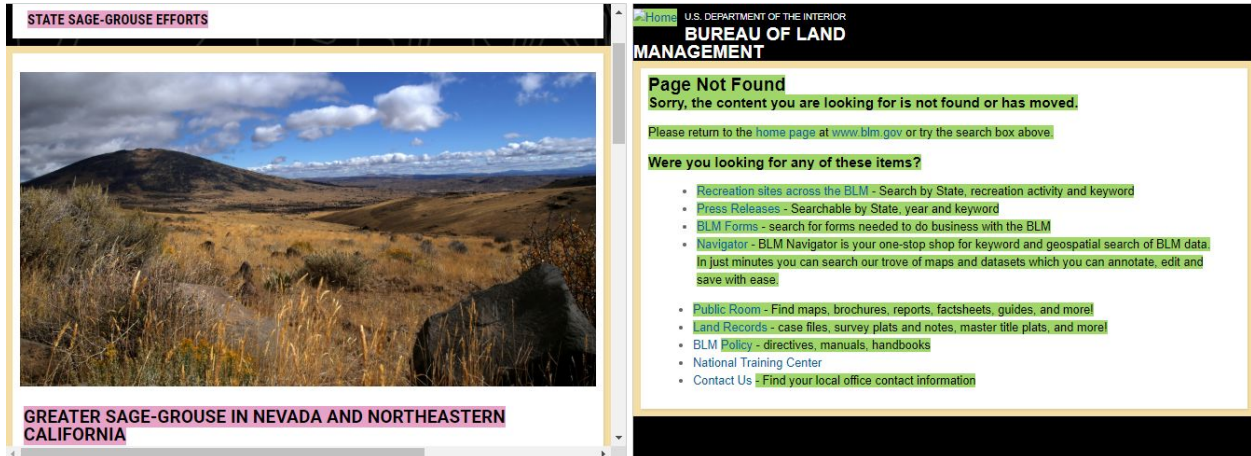
(7.1b) (not shown) Removal of “Things You Should Know” link text and link URL from menu (see [Page 1](#)) between April 28, 2018 and May 2, 2018.



Screenshot 7.1

Screenshot 7.2:

(7.2a) Page removal between June 26, 2018 and August 8, 2018.



Screenshot 7.2

Page 8: GREATER SAGE-GROUSE IN COLORADO

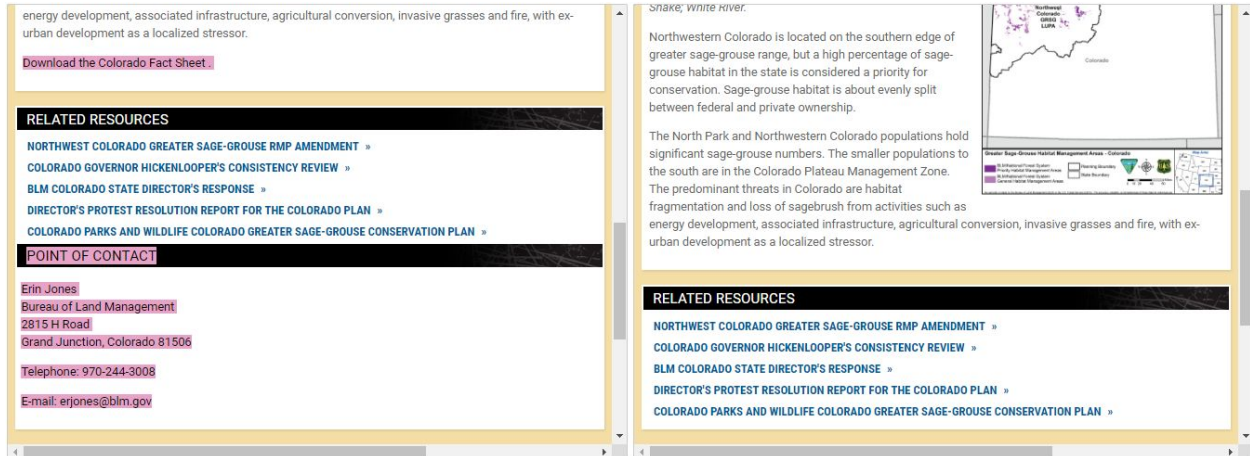
- URL:
<https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/state-sagegrouse-efforts/colorado>
- Removal of link and menu item, eventual page removal
- Changes occurred **April 9, 2018 9:13 PM EDT** and **May 3, 2018 8:22 AM EDT**.
- Removal occurred between **August 3, 2018 6:56 AM EDT** and **August 9, 2018 3:31 AM EDT**.
- Most recent Wayback Machine link (August 8, 2017 9:19 AM EDT):
<https://web.archive.org/web/20170808131944/https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/state-sagegrouse-efforts/colorado>

Screenshot 8.1:

(8.1a) Removal of link text and link to “Download the [Colorado Fact Sheet](#)” between April 9, 2018 and May 3, 2018

(8.1b) (not shown) Removal of “Things You Should Know” link text and link URL from menu (see [Page 1](#)) between April 9, 2018 and May 3, 2018

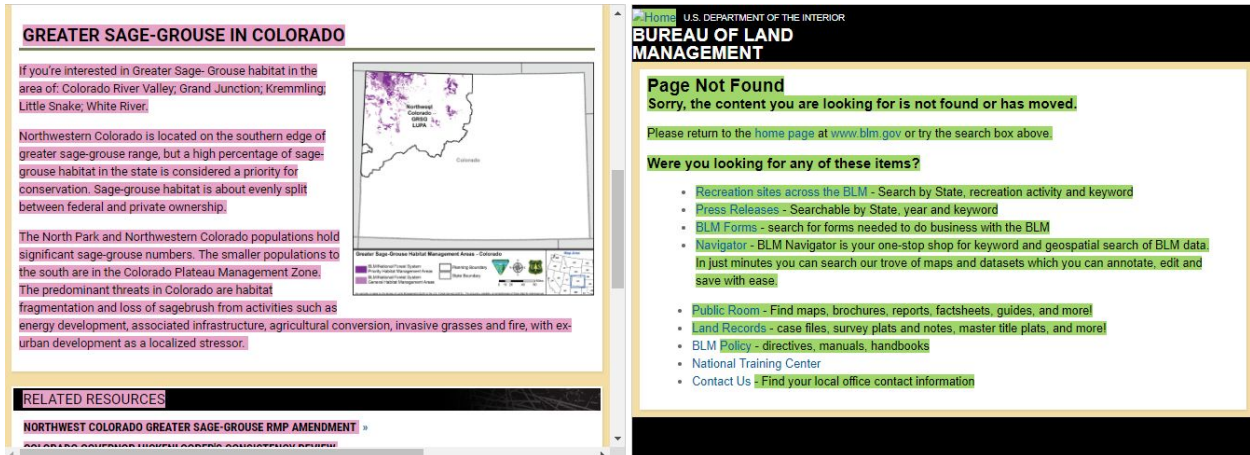
(8.1c) Removal of information for Point of Contact between April 9, 2018 and May 3, 2018.



Screenshot 8.1

Screenshot 8.2:

(8.2a) Page removal between August 3, 2018 and August 9, 2018.



Screenshot 8.2

PAGE 9: GREATER SAGE-GROUSE IN THE DAKOTAS (North Dakota)

- URL: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/state-sagegrouse-efforts/north-dakotas>
- Link removal, menu item removal, eventual page removal
- Changes occurred between **March 15, 2018 7:31 AM EDT** and **May 3, 2018 5:46 AM EDT**.
- Page removal occurred between **August 3, 2018 1:48 AM EDT** and **August 10, 2018 9:19 PM EDT**.

- Most recent Wayback Machine link (August 8, 2017 9:21 AM EDT):
<https://web.archive.org/web/20170808132148/https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/state-sagegrouse-efforts/north-dakotas>

Screenshots 9.1 and 9.2 available upon request and in the screenshots folder.

(9.1a) Removal of link text and link to “Download the [Dakotas Fact Sheet](#)” between March 15, 2018 and May 3, 2018.

(9.1b) (not shown) Removal of “Things You Should Know” link text and link URL from menu (see [Page 1](#)) between March 15, 2018 and May 3, 2018.

(9.2a) Removal of page between August 3, 2018 and August 10, 2018.

PAGE 10: GREATER SAGE-GROUSE IN THE DAKOTAS (South Dakota)

- URL:
<https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/state-sagegrouse-efforts/south-dakota>
- Link removal, menu item removal, eventual page removal
- Changes occurred between **March 15, 2018 8:29 AM EDT** and **May 3, 2018 6:37 AM EDT**.
- Page removal occurred between **August 3, 2018 4:37 AM EDT** and **August 9, 2018 1:25 AM EDT**.
- Most recent Wayback Machine link (February 9, 2017 8:20 PM EDT):
<https://web.archive.org/web/20170210012052/https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/state-sagegrouse-efforts/south-dakota>

Screenshots 10.1 and 10.2 available upon request and in the screenshots folder.

(10.1a) Removal of link text and link to “Download the [Dakotas Fact Sheet](#)” between March 15, 2018 and May 3, 2018.

(10.1b) (not shown) Removal of “Things You Should Know” link text and link URL from menu (see [Page 1](#)) between March 15, 2018 and May 3, 2018.

(10.2a) Removal of page between August 3, 2018 and August 9, 2018.

Page 11: GREATER SAGE-GROUSE IN IDAHO

- URL:
<https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/state-sagegrouse-efforts/idaho>
- Text changes, link removal, and eventual page removal
- Changes occurred between **April 11, 2018 6:35 AM EDT** and **May 2, 2018 6:04 PM EDT**.
- Page removal occurred between **June 26, 2018 10:53 AM EDT** and **August 8, 2018 9:51 AM EDT**.
- Page restored before **December 7, 2018 10:36 AM EST**.
- Most recent Wayback Machine link (August 8, 2017 9:20 AM EDT):
<https://web.archive.org/web/20170808132019/https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/state-sagegrouse-efforts/idaho>

Screenshots 11.1 and 11.2 are available upon request and in the screenshots folder.

(11.1a) Removal of link text and link to “Download the [Idaho Fact Sheet](#)” between April 11, 2018 and May 2, 2018

(11.1b) (not shown) Removal of “Things You Should Know” link text and link URL from menu (see [Page 1](#)) between April 11, 2018 and May 2, 2018.

(11.2a) Page removal between June 26, 2018 and August 8, 2018.

Screenshot 11.3:

The page was restored before December 7, 2018, after returning a “Page Not Found” error for four months. Screenshot 11.3 compares the page on June 26, 2018 prior to its removal (left) and the restored page on December 7, 2018 (right).

(11.3a) Minor text change from “Significant cheatgrass incursions and frequent wildfires are primary threats to ***greater sage-grouse persistence***” to “Significant cheatgrass incursions and frequent wildfires are primary threats to ***Greater Sage-Grouse persistence in Idaho.***”

(11.3b) Addition of paragraph about the resource management plan amendments.

The BLM has proposed amendments to the 2015 resource management plans (RMPs) that guide Greater Sage-Grouse habitat conservation on 11.5 million acres of public lands in Idaho, with the goal of aligning them more closely with state plans to conserve the species by building on the experience and successes shown since they were first adopted.

View the 2015 RMPs for Idaho and read more about the plan amendment process using the links to the left.

(11.3c) Removal of Related Resources section, including all link text and links below.

RELATED RESOURCES

- [***BLM PUBLIC MEETINGS IN IDAHO SUPPORT REVIEW OF SAGE-GROUSE DRAFT EIS***](#)
- [***JUNIOR RANGER: SAMMY'S QUEST TO SAVE THE WEST***](#)
- [***IDAHO AND SOUTHWESTERN MONTANA SUB-REGIONAL GREATER SAGE-GROUSE RMP AMENDMENT***](#)
- [***IDAHO STATE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS GREATER SAGE-GROUSE CONSERVATION PLAN***](#)
- [***IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME GREATER SAGE-GROUSE CONSERVATION WEBSITE***](#)
- [***IDAHO GOVERNOR OTTER'S CONSISTENCY REVIEW***](#)
- [***BLM IDAHO STATE DIRECTOR'S RESPONSE***](#)
- [***IDAHO GOVERNOR OTTER'S APPEAL***](#)
- [***DIRECTOR'S PROTEST RESOLUTION REPORT***](#)

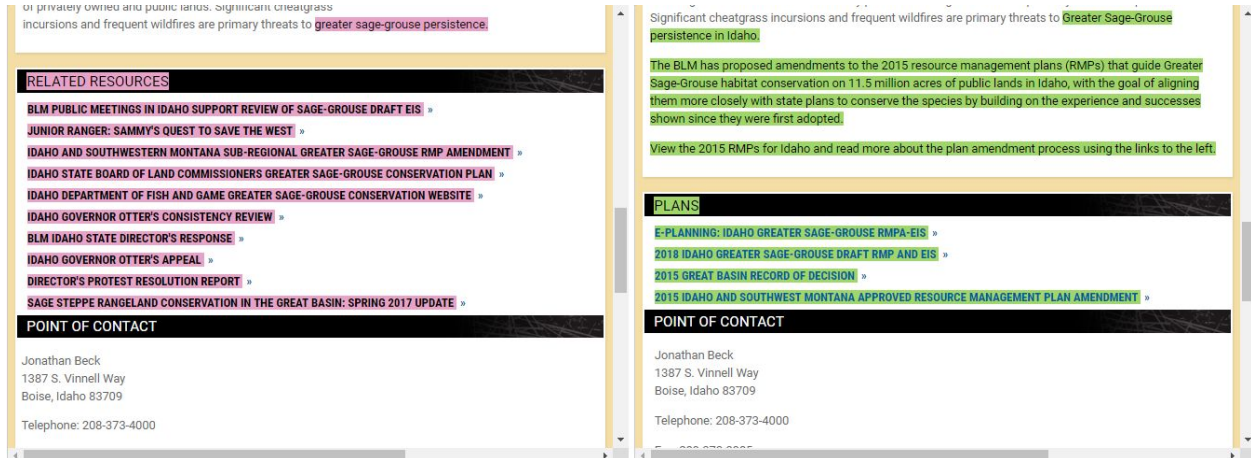
- [***SAGE STEPPE RANGELAND CONSERVATION IN THE GREAT BASIN: SPRING 2017 UPDATE***](#)

(11.3d) Addition of PLANS section, including all text and links below.

PLANS

- [***E-PLANNING: IDAHO GREATER SAGE-GROUSE RMPA-EIS***](#)
- [***2018 IDAHO GREATER SAGE-GROUSE DRAFT RMP AND EIS***](#)
- [***2015 GREAT BASIN RECORD OF DECISION***](#)

- [***2015 IDAHO AND SOUTHWEST MONTANA APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT***](#)



Screenshot 11.3

PAGE 12: GREATER SAGE-GROUSE IN MONTANA

- URL:
<https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/state-sagegrouse-efforts/montana>
- Link removal, menu item removal, eventual page removal
- Changes occurred between **March 15, 2018 3:36 AM EDT** and **May 2, 2018 11:40 PM EDT**.
- Page removal occurred between **August 2, 2018 7:41 PM EDT** and **August 8, 2018 4:22 PM EDT**.
- Most recent Wayback Machine link (August 8, 2017 9:20 AM EDT):
<https://web.archive.org/web/20170808132049/https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/state-sagegrouse-efforts/montana>

Screenshots 12.1 and 12.2 are available upon request and in the screenshots folder.

(12.1a) Removal of link text and link to “Download the [Montana Fact Sheet](#)” between March 15, 2018 and May 2, 2018

(12.1b) (not shown) Removal of “Things You Should Know” link text and link URL from menu (see [Page 1](#)) between March 15, 2018 and May 2, 2018.

(12.2a) Page removed between August 2, 2018 and August 8, 2018.

PAGE 13: GREATER SAGE-GROUSE IN OREGON

- URL:
<https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/state-sagegrouse-efforts/oregon>
- Text changes, link removal, menu item removal, later page removal, and eventual page restoration
- Changes occurred between **March 15, 2018 7:57 AM EDT** and **May 3, 2018 5:57 AM EDT**.
- Page removal occurred between **August 3, 2018 1:50 AM EDT** and **August 8, 2018 10:34 PM EDT**.
- Page restored before **December 7, 2018 10:53 PM EST**
- Most recent Wayback Machine link (August 8, 2017 9:22 AM EDT):
<https://web.archive.org/web/20170808132227/https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/state-sagegrouse-efforts/oregon>

(13.1a) Text changes in the main body of the page, changing from a sentence about the current resource management plan to five paragraphs about the plan amendment process.

Text section as of March 15, 2018:

The Oregon plan builds on the ***core area strategy utilized by Wyoming and Montana to address all sage-grouse habitats on approximately 15*** million acres of ***all landownership types***.

[Download the Oregon Fact Sheet.](#)"

Text section as of May 3, 2018

In March 2018, BLM, in conjunction with the Department of the Interior determined to proceed with amending the 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse land-use plans. The decision builds on the ***2015 plans, public scoping and Secretarial Order 3353, which directed BLM "to enhance cooperation between DOI and the States ... in the management and conservation of the Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat"***

SO 3353 also established a team to review Federal agencies' sage-grouse plans. That team, in a report issued August 4, 2017, recommended "... continuing joint engagement to further define consideration of potential targeted plan amendments."

Based on that direction, the BLM began a scoping process on October 11, 2017, to help identify potential issues and whether a plan amendment process should proceed. That process led to the March decision to proceed with the plan amendments.

Secretarial Order 3355, issued on August 1, 2017, directed DOI agencies to "... complete each Final EIS ... within 1 year from the issuance of a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS." Based on that deadline, BLM's target date to complete the Final Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) is October 11, 2018, and the target to complete work on the Draft EISs was April 21, 2018.

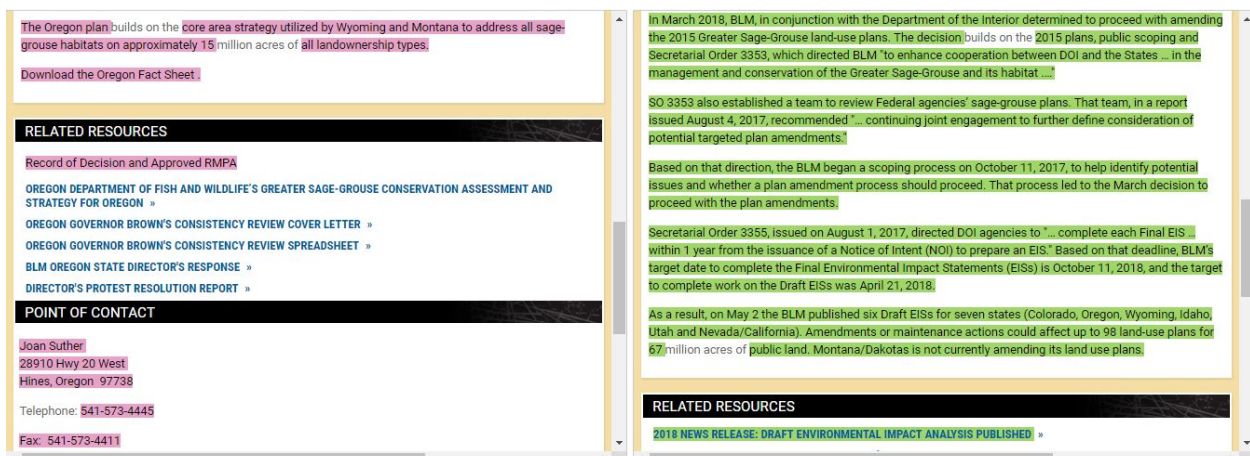
As a result, on May 2 the BLM published six Draft EISs for seven states (Colorado, Oregon, Wyoming, Idaho, Utah and Nevada/California). Amendments or maintenance actions could affect up to 98 land-use plans for 67 million acres of public land. Montana/Dakotas is not currently amending its land use plans."

(13.1b) Removal of link text and link to "Download the [Oregon Fact Sheet](#)" between March 15, 2018 and May 3, 2018.

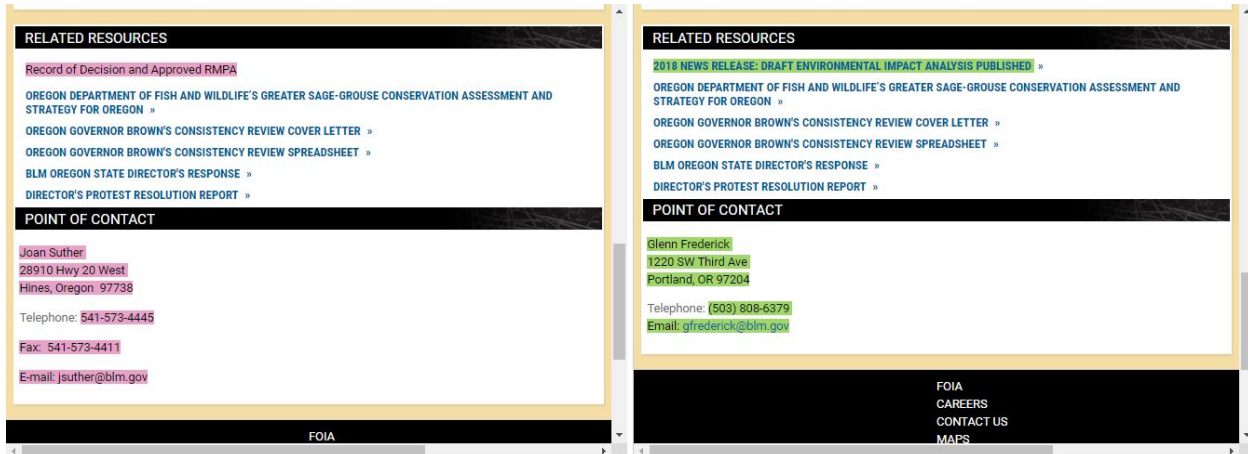
(13.1c) (not shown) Removal of "Things You Should Know" link text and link URL from menu (see [Page 1](#)) between March 15, 2018 and May 3, 2018.

(13.2a) Added link text and link to 2018 [EIS Press Release](#) regarding Draft Environmental Impact Statement between March 15, 2018 and May 3, 2018.

(13.2b) Changed the Point of Contact between March 15, 2018 and May 3, 2018.



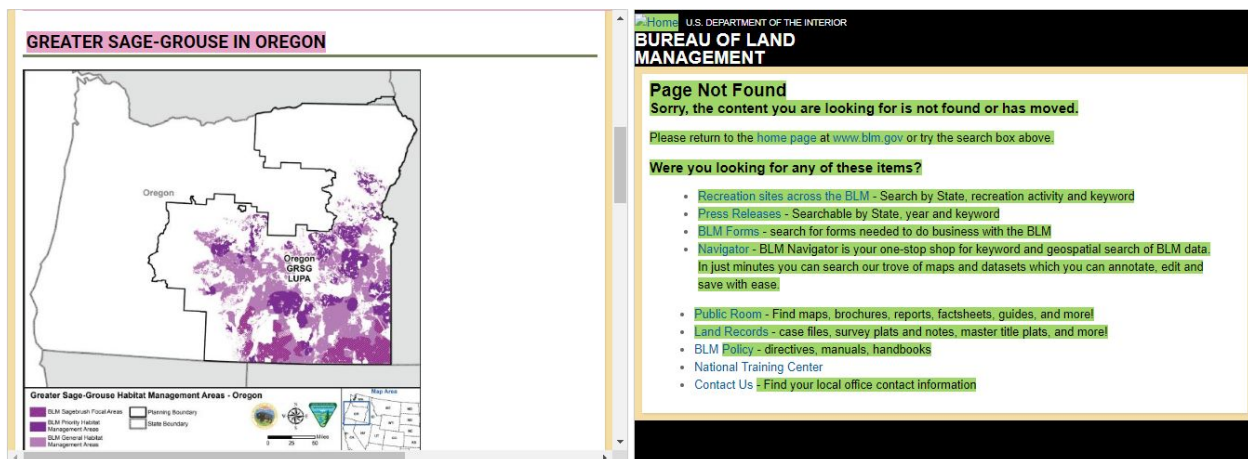
Screenshot 13.1



Screenshot 13.2

Screenshot 13.3:

(13.3a) Page removed between August 3, 2018 and August 8, 2018.



Screenshot 13.3

Screenshot 13.4:

The page was restored before December 7, 2018, after returning a “Page Not Found” error for four months. Screenshot 13.4 compares the page on August 3, 2018 prior to its removal (left) and the restored page on December 7, 2018 (right).

(13.4a) Removal of information regarding the plan amendments that had been added by May 3, 2018 (see 13.1a).

SO 3353 also established a team to review Federal agencies’ sage-grouse plans. That team, in a report issued August 4, 2017, recommended "... continuing joint

engagement to further define consideration of potential targeted plan amendments."

Based on that direction, the BLM began a scoping process on October 11, 2017, to help identify potential issues and whether a plan amendment process should proceed. That process led to the March decision to proceed with the plan amendments.

Secretarial Order 3355, issued on August 1, 2017, directed DOI agencies to "... complete each Final EIS ... within 1 year from the issuance of a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS." Based on that deadline, BLM's target date to complete the Final Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) is October 11, 2018, and the target to complete work on the Draft EISs was April 21, 2018.

As a result, on May 2 the BLM published six Draft EISs for seven states (Colorado, Oregon, Wyoming, Idaho, Utah and Nevada/California). Amendments or maintenance actions could affect up to 98 land-use plans for 67 million acres of public land. Montana/Dakotas is not currently amending its land use plans.

(13.4b) Addition of paragraph regarding the plan amendments.

The BLM has proposed amendments to the 2015 resource management plans (RMPs) that guide Greater Sage-Grouse habitat conservation on 21,959 acres of public lands in Oregon, with the goal of aligning them more closely with state plans to conserve the species by building on the experience and successes shown since they were first adopted.

View the 2015 RMPs for Oregon and read more about the plan amendment process using the links to the left.

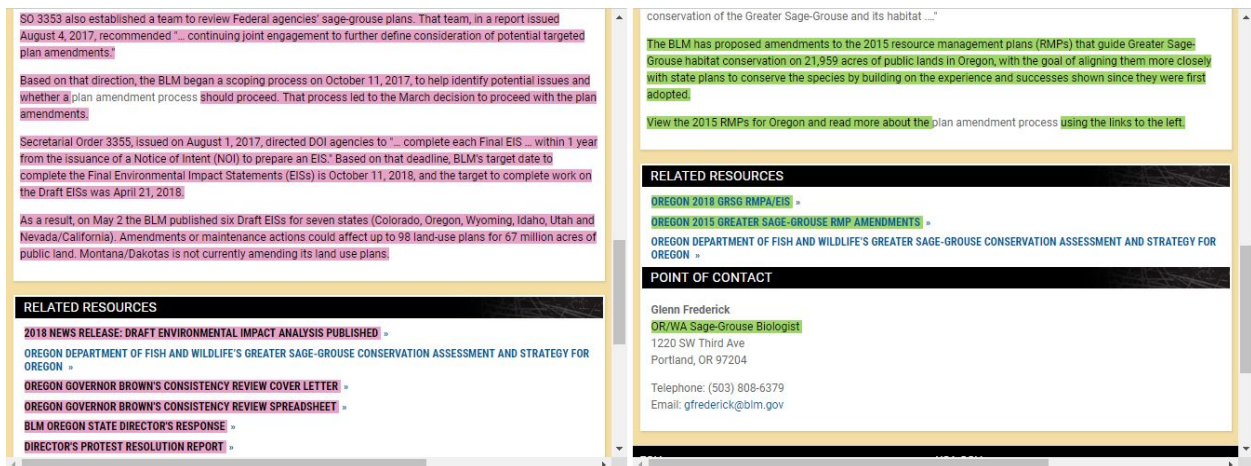
(13.4c) Link changes in the RELATED RESOURCES section.

Links as of August 3, 2018:

- [**2018 NEWS RELEASE: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS PUBLISHED**](#)
- [**OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE'S GREATER SAGE-GROUSE CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGY FOR OREGON**](#)
- [**OREGON GOVERNOR BROWN'S CONSISTENCY REVIEW COVER LETTER**](#)
- [**OREGON GOVERNOR BROWN'S CONSISTENCY REVIEW SPREADSHEET**](#)
- [**BLM OREGON STATE DIRECTOR'S RESPONSE**](#)
- [**DIRECTOR'S PROTEST RESOLUTION REPORT**](#)

Links as of December 7, 2018:

- [OREGON 2018 GRSG RMPA/EIS](#)
- [OREGON 2015 GREATER SAGE-GROUSE RMP AMENDMENTS](#)
- [OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE'S GREATER SAGE-GROUSE CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGY FOR OREGON](#)



Screenshot 13.4

PAGE 14: GREATER SAGE-GROUSE IN UTAH

- URL: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/state-sagegrouse-efforts/utah>
- Link removal, menu item removal, later page removal, and eventual page restoration
- Changes occurred between **March 15, 2018 7:17 AM EDT** and **May 3, 2018 5:26 AM EDT**.
- Page removal occurred between **August 3, 2018 2:21 AM EDT** and **August 8, 2018 11:08 PM EDT**.
- Page restored before **December 8, 2018 1:40 AM EST**.
- Most recent Wayback Machine link (August 8, 2017 9:22 AM EDT): <https://web.archive.org/web/20170808132254/https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/state-sagegrouse-efforts/utah>

Screenshots 14.1 and 14.2 are available upon request and are in the screenshots folder.

(14.1a) Removal of link text and link to “Download the [Utah Fact Sheet](#)” between March 15, 2018 and May 3, 2018.

(14.1b) (not shown) Removal of “Things You Should Know” link text and link URL from menu (see [Page 1](#)) between March 15, 2018 and May 3, 2018.

(14.2a) Page removed between August 3, 2018 and August 8, 2018.

Screenshot 14.3:

The page was restored before December 8, 2018, after returning a “Page Not Found” error for four months. Screenshot 4.3 compares the page on August 3, 2018 prior to its removal (left) and the restored page on December 8, 2018 (right).

(14.3a) Minor text changes in the body of the page.

Text as of August 3, 2018:

Sagebrush habitat in Utah reflects the rugged and incised natural topography of the state. Utah is home to the **most southern population of sage-grouse within the species range**, providing evidence of historic linkages to the south. **The** relatively isolated nature **of greater sage-grouse in Utah have** also provided extensive research opportunities, the results of which have greatly enhanced **our** understanding of the species. **They may also provide adaptive capacity to continue** the long-term persistence of the species.

Approximately half of occupied habitat is managed by the federal government. Energy development, invasive grasses, fire, and conifer encroachment pose major challenges **to greater sage-grouse in Utah.**

Text as of December 8, 2018:

Sagebrush habitat in Utah reflects the rugged and incised natural topography of the state. Utah is home to the **southernmost Greater Sage-Grouse population**, providing evidence of historic linkages to the south. **Its** relatively isolated nature has also provided extensive research opportunities, the results of which have greatly enhanced understanding of the species. **These populations may also possess adaptive capacity that can contribute to** the long-term persistence of the species. Approximately half of occupied habitat **in Utah** is managed by the federal government. Energy development, invasive grasses, fire, and conifer encroachment pose major challenges to **Greater Sage-Grouse in Utah.**

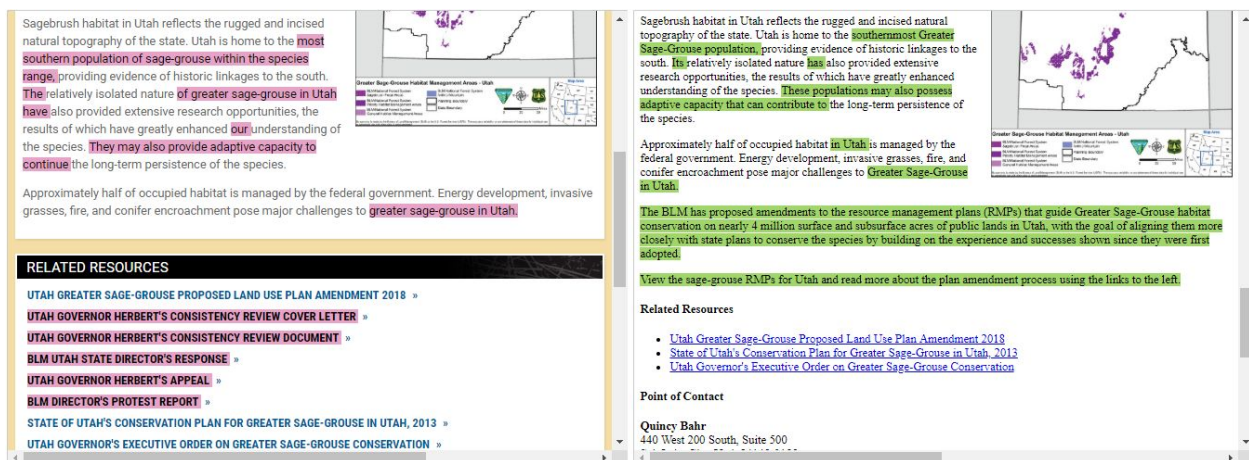
(14.3b) Addition of paragraph about the proposed amendments.

The BLM has proposed amendments to the resource management plans (RMPs) that guide Greater Sage-Grouse habitat conservation on nearly 4 million surface and subsurface acres of public lands in Utah, with the goal of aligning them more closely with state plans to conserve the species by building on the experience and successes shown since they were first adopted.

View the sage-grouse RMPs for Utah and read more about the plan amendment process using the links to the left.

(14.3c) Removal of five links from RELATED RESOURCES section regarding the 2015 sage grouse resource management plans.

- [Utah Greater Sage-Grouse Proposed Land Use Plan Amendment 2018](#)
- [Utah Governor Herbert's Consistency Review Cover Letter](#)
- [Utah Governor Herbert's consistency Review Document](#)
- [BLM Utah State Director's Response](#)
- [Utah Governor Herbert's Appeal](#)
- [BLM Director's Protest Report](#)
- [State of Utah's Conservation Plan for Greater Sage-Grouse in Utah, 2013](#)
- [Utah Governor's Executive Order on Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation](#)



Screenshot 14.3

PAGE 15: GREATER SAGE-GROUSE IN WYOMING

- URL:
<https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/state-sagegrouse-efforts/wyoming>
- Text changes, link removal, menu item removal, and eventual page removal
- Changes occurred between **March 15, 2018 1:05 AM EDT** and **May 2, 2018 9:26 PM EDT**.
- Page removal occurred between **August 2, 2018 4:44 PM EDT** and **August 8, 2018 1:15 PM EDT**.
- Most recent Wayback Machine link (August 8, 2017 9:23 AM EDT):
<https://web.archive.org/web/20170808132331/https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sagegrouse/state-sagegrouse-efforts/wyoming>

Screenshots 15.1, 15.2:

(15.1a) Text changes to site between March 15 and May 2, 2018.

Text as of March 15, 2018:

“Wyoming is a stronghold for greater sage-grouse, with the most birds and the most sagebrush of any state. The state is home to 43 million acres of sagebrush, an estimated 37 percent of the greater sage-grouse population and more leks than any other state. Wyoming was the first to adopt a comprehensive statewide greater sage-grouse **strategy** and is generally recognized for its conservation leadership in the heart of greater sagegrouse country. **Energy development and associated infrastructure is a predominant threat, along with invasive species in northeastern Wyoming. Fire and ex-urban development also** pose localized challenges.

[Download the Wyoming Fact Sheet.](#)”

Text as of May 2, 2018:

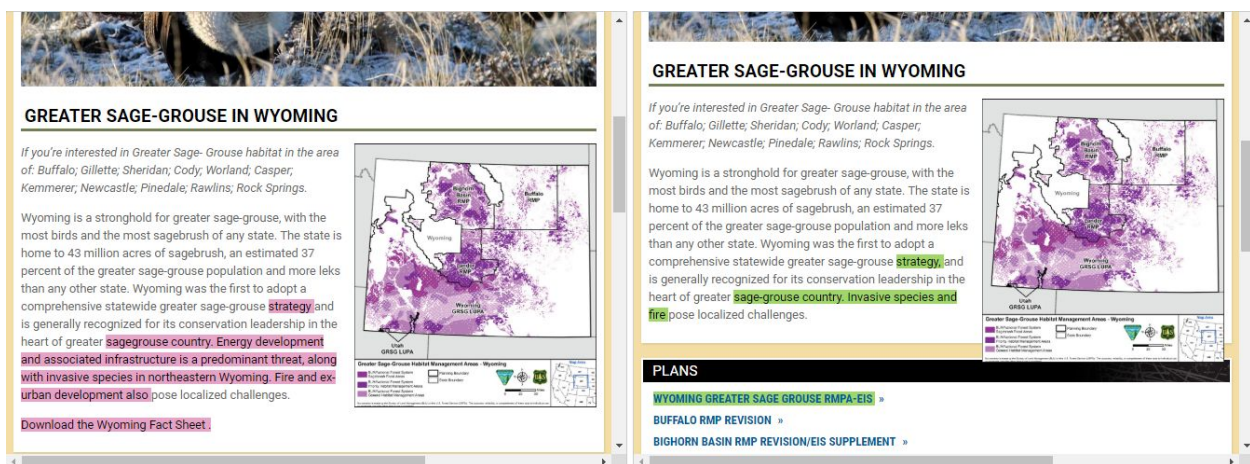
“Wyoming is a stronghold for greater sage-grouse, with the most birds and the most sagebrush of any state. The state is home to 43 million acres of sagebrush, an estimated 37 percent of the greater sage-grouse population and more leks than any other state. Wyoming was the first to adopt a comprehensive statewide greater sage-grouse **strategy**, and is generally recognized for its conservation leadership in the heart of greater **sage-grouse country. Invasive species and fire** pose localized challenges.”

(15.1b) Removal of link text and link to “Download the [Wyoming Fact Sheet](#)” between March 15, 2018 and May 2, 2018.

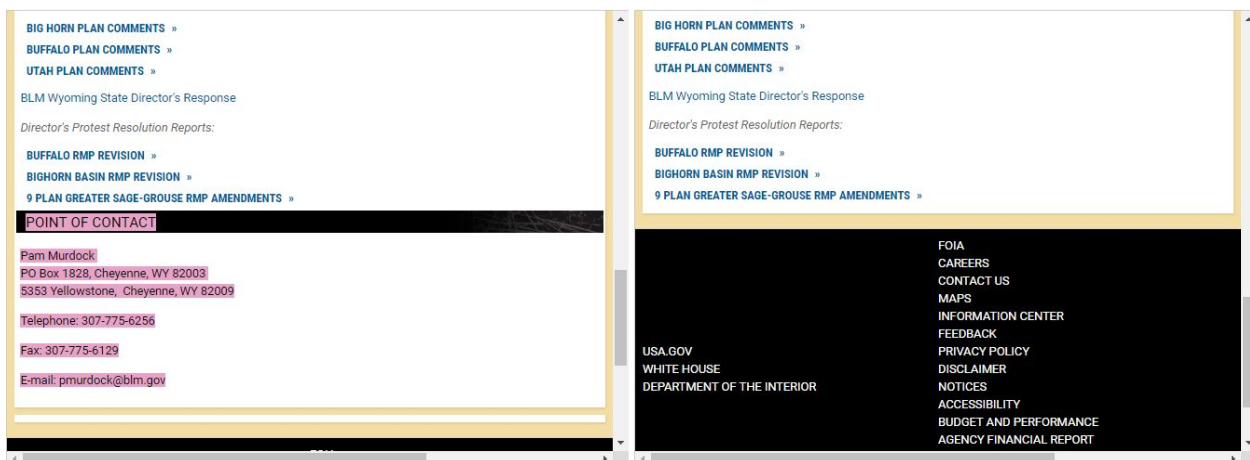
(15.1c) (not shown) Removal of “Things You Should Know” link text and link URL from menu (see [Page 1](#)) between March 15, 2018 and May 2, 2018.

(15.1d) Added link to draft Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement [announcement](#) between March 15, 2018 and May 2, 2018.

(15.2a) Removal of Point of Contact between March 15, 2018 and May 2, 2018.



Screenshot 15.1



Screenshot 15.2

Screenshot 15.3

(15.3a) Page removed between August 2, 2018 and August 8, 2018.

GREATER SAGE-GROUSE IN WYOMING

If you're interested in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat in the area of: Buffalo, Gillette, Sheridan, Cody, Worland, Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, Rock Springs.

Wyoming is a stronghold for greater sage-grouse, with the most birds and the most sagebrush of any state. The state is home to 43 million acres of sagebrush, an estimated 37 percent of the greater sage-grouse population and more leks than any other state. Wyoming was the first to adopt a comprehensive statewide greater sage-grouse strategy, and is generally recognized for its conservation leadership in the heart of greater sage-grouse country. Invasive species and fire pose localized challenges.

PLANS

- [WYOMING GREATER SAGE GROUSE RMPA-EIS »](#)
- [BUFFALO RMP REVISION »](#)
- [BIGHORN BASIN RMP REVISION/EIS SUPPLEMENT »](#)
- [9 PLAN GREATER SAGE-GROUSE RMP AMENDMENT »](#)
- [WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT'S GREATER SAGE-GROUSE PAGE »](#)

Home U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

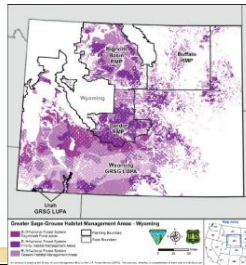
Page Not Found

Sorry, the content you are looking for is not found or has moved.

Please return to the [home page](#) at [www.blm.gov](#) or try the search box above.

Were you looking for any of these items?

- [Recreation sites across the BLM](#) - Search by State, recreation activity and keyword
- [Press Releases](#) - Searchable by State, year and keyword
- [BLM Forms](#) - search for forms needed to do business with the BLM
- [Navigator](#) - BLM Navigator is your one-stop shop for keyword and geospatial search of BLM data. In just minutes you can search our trove of maps and datasets which you can annotate, edit and save with ease.
- [Public Room](#) - Find maps, brochures, reports, factsheets, guides, and more!
- [Land Records](#) - case files, survey plats and notes, master title plats, and more!
- [BLM Policy](#) - directives, manuals, handbooks
- National Training Center
- Contact Us - [Find your local office contact information](#)



Screenshot 15.3