

Bureau of Land Management | Gateway West Transmission Line Project

Draft EIS Reference Guide to Sage-Grouse and HEA Information

February 2012

This guide refers to the chapters, sections, pages and tables in the Gateway West project Draft EIS that contain specific information on sage-grouse analysis and proposed mitigation, as well as information on the Habitat Equivalency Analysis (HEA). Provided along with this reference guide are copies of each of these Draft EIS sources.

Framework for Sage-grouse Impacts Analysis for Interstate Transmission Lines (Appendix J in the Draft EIS, since revised on 10/22/11)

The BLM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (all cooperating agencies) jointly developed the *Framework for Sage-grouse Impacts Analysis for Interstate Transmission Lines*. The *Framework* has three components:

1. Evaluation of direct and indirect impacts;
2. Addressing direct loss of birds; and
3. Mitigation
 - Habitat Equivalency Analysis (HEA)

Evaluation of Direct and Indirect Impacts (Chapter 3 and Appendix D)

- **Direct Impacts** – Direct impacts are quantified and presented for construction-related actions common to all alternatives; see:
 - Chapter 3, Section 11, Pages 3.11-63 to 3.11-68
 - Chapter 3, Section 11, Pages 3.11-127 to 3.11-157 (includes segment-specific tables)
 - Appendix D, Tables 11.3, 11.5, 11.7, 11.9, 11.11, 11.12, and 11.14
- **Indirect Impacts** – Due to a lack of quantifiable data on indirect impacts, these are presented in a qualitative manner in the Draft EIS; see:
 - Chapter 3, Pages 3.11-68 to 3.11-73

Addressing Direct Loss of Birds

The direct loss of birds is a numerical estimate requested by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which provides key information for their sage-grouse listing decisions under the Endangered Species Act. This portion of the *Framework* is conceptually discussed in the Draft EIS (see page 3.11-64, second full paragraph). Any loss of birds during construction is expected to be incidental. The extent of damage to habitat services that would contribute to a loss of birds has not yet been evaluated.

Mitigation (Chapter 2, Appendix C-5 and Appendix J)

The Draft EIS contains preliminary mitigation measures, identified as proponent-proposed and BLM-required measures already incorporated into the impact analysis; see:

- **Proponent and Agency Proposed Mitigation Measures**
 - Chapter 2, Pages 2-163 to 2-164, Table 2.7-1
- **Greater Sage-grouse Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures**
 - Appendix C-5
- **Habitat Equivalency Analysis (HEA)**
 - See *Framework for Sage-grouse Impacts Analysis*, Appendix J