

Meeting Date: January 24, 2019

Agenda Item No. 12

Agenda Item: BLM Sage-Grouse Plan Amendment

Bureau Chief Approval: SR

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Background:

In June 2017, Secretary Zinke issued SO 3353 to enhance cooperation with the States in regards to Greater Sage-Grouse management. In October 2017, the BLM issued a Notice of Intent to amend the 2015 land use plans for Greater Sage-Grouse and to prepare an Environment Impact Statement (EIS). Idaho BLM has been working closely with the Idaho Governor's Stakeholder Group to better align the BLM plan with Governor Otter's 2012 Plan and EO 2015-04. The result is the Management Alignment Alternative in the Final EIS, which was issued on November 17, 2018. This presentation will discuss this process and highlight the changes from the 2015 plan. The U.S. Forest Service is also undergoing a similar plan revision.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Greater Sage-Grouse are a state-managed species, while BLM manages approximately 50% of its range. BLM land management policies impact habitat for sage-grouse and other sagebrush-dependent wildlife species.

Public Involvement Process:

The BLM plan amendment has undergone the appropriate public comment period, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

Justification:

Informational item.

Staff Recommendation:

This agenda item is for information only. No action required. Department staff will continue to be involved in the process, including working with BLM to implement the plan when it is approved.