

A wide-angle landscape photograph of a grassy valley with rolling hills and a cloudy sky. The foreground is filled with green and brown grasses. In the middle ground, there are rolling hills and a valley. In the background, there are more hills and a blue sky with white clouds.

BLM Adaptive Management Strategy for Greater Sage-Grouse in Oregon 2021 SageCon Partnership Summit

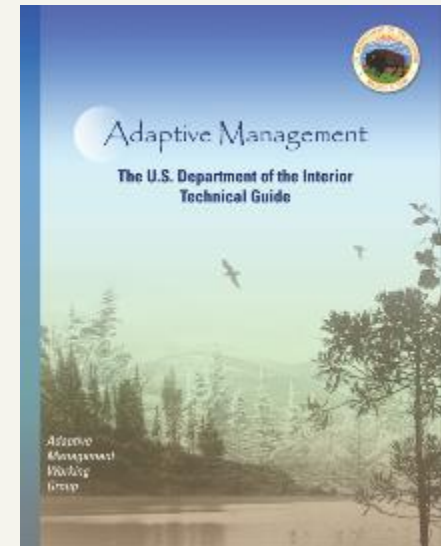
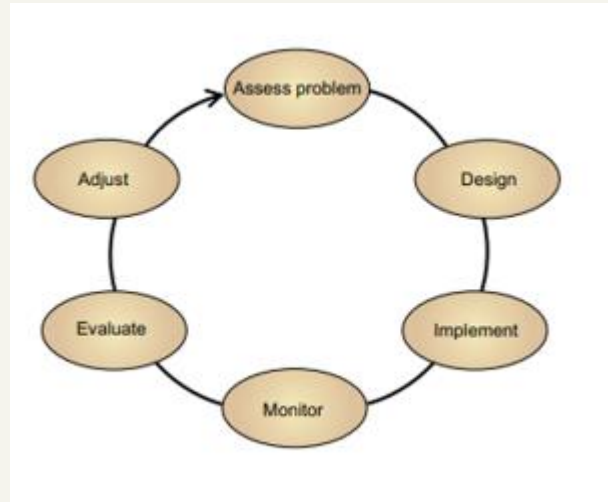
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- ✓ Oregon BLM's Sage-Grouse Adaptive Management Strategy
- ✓ Population and habitat thresholds and triggers
- ✓ Status of the 2020 adaptive management triggers
- ✓ Causal Factor Analysis

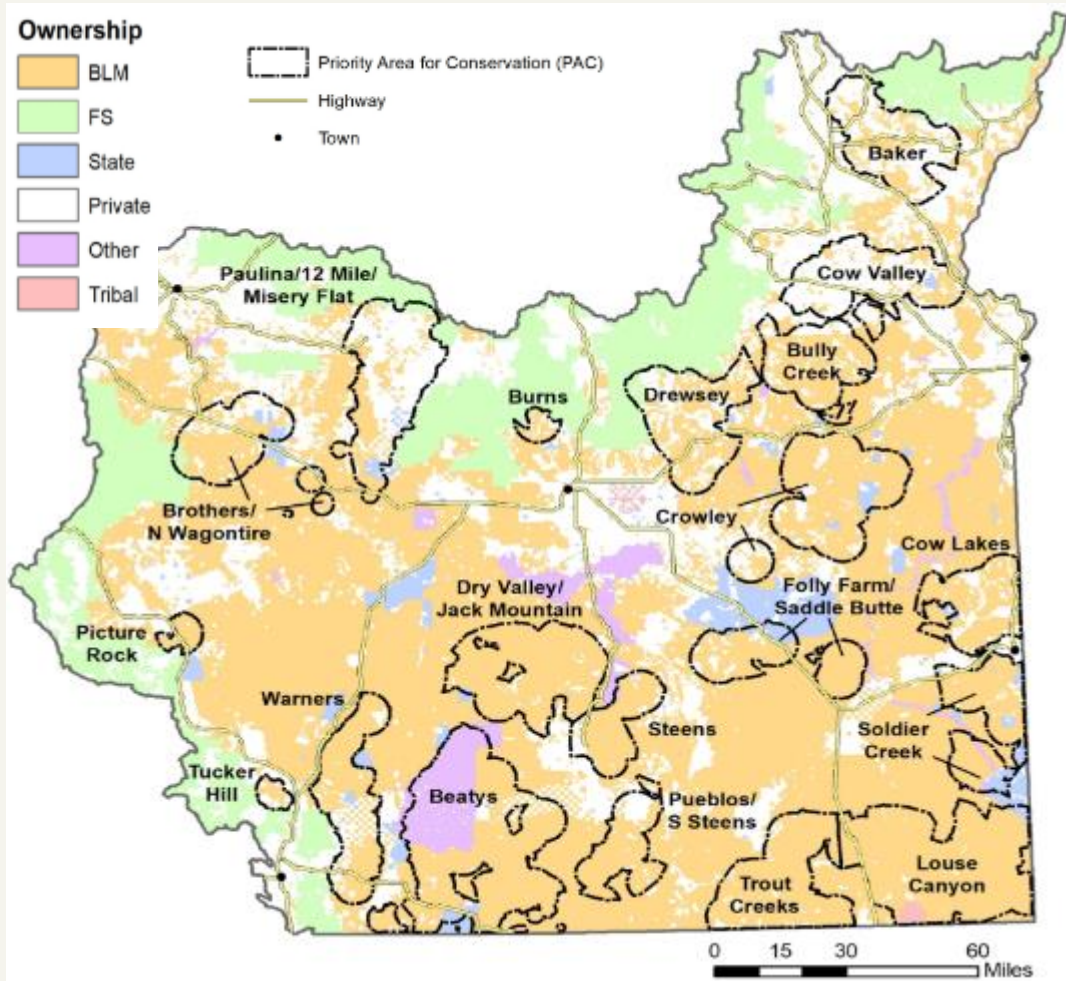


Oregon BLM's Sage-Grouse Adaptive Management Strategy

- Appendix J in the 2015 Oregon Greater Sage-Grouse Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment (ARMPA)
- Dropping below a population or habitat threshold trips an adaptive management trigger
- Two types of triggers
 - **Soft Trigger** indicate that management changes may be needed at the project level to reduce the likelihood of tripping a hard trigger
 - **Hard Trigger** indicate that immediate and more restrictive and plan-level action is needed to address sage-grouse conservation objectives.
- Trigger reverses when population or habitat rises above the threshold



Oregon's Priority Areas for Conservation



- BLM's Adaptive Management Strategy applies only to Priority Habitat Management Area (PHMA) within Priority Areas for Conservation (PAC)
- ODFW delineated Core Area Habitat in 2011 to conserve 90% of the sage-grouse breeding population
- ODFW grouped Core Area Habitat into 20 PACs
- In 2015, BLM designated all BLM lands within PACs as PHMA

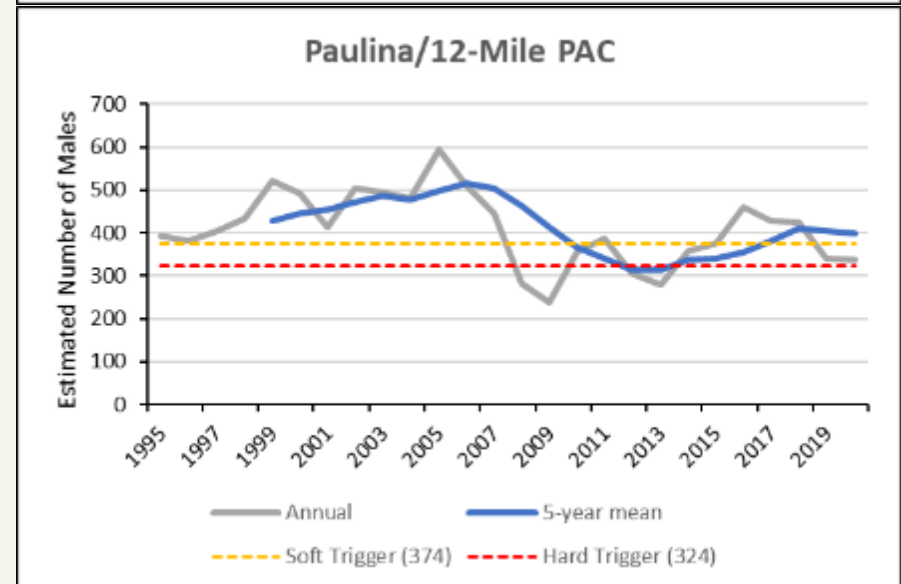
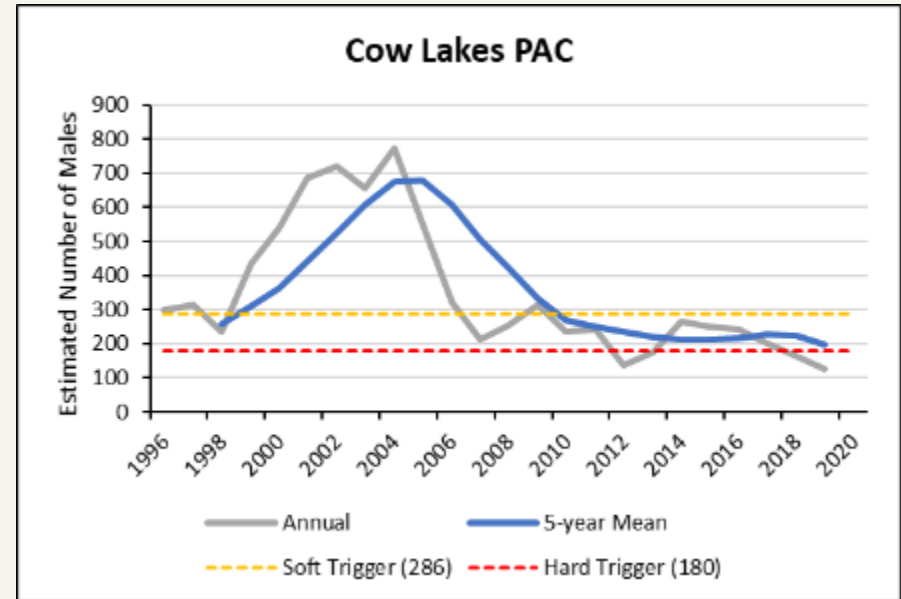
Habitat Triggers



- Sage-grouse require landscapes supporting $\geq 65\%$ sagebrush cover
 - **soft trigger 30-65% cover**
 - **hard trigger $<30\%$ cover**
- Primary factors affecting sagebrush cover: wildfire, juniper expansion, & historic sagebrush removal projects
- Two PACs tripped habitat triggers since 2015
- **Fires** during 2020 burned approximately 52,157 PAC acres but did not trip triggers
- **Vegetation treatments** completed on approximately 236,673 BLM acres since 2012
 - Preventing Steens PAC from tripping a habitat trigger

Population Triggers

- Number of males attending leks fluctuates annually over time (grey line)
- Annual status of the trigger is based on the floating 5-year mean annual population estimate (blue line)
- **Soft Trigger** (yellow line) is the lower end of the 95th percentile confidence interval of the ~20-year mean annual population estimate
- **Hard Trigger** (red line) is one standard deviation of the ~20-year mean annual population estimate.
- Large single year or continuous decline trips population trigger



Annual 2020 Triggers Status

Soft Trigger

Beatys

Soldier Creek

Trout Creeks

Warners

Hard Trigger

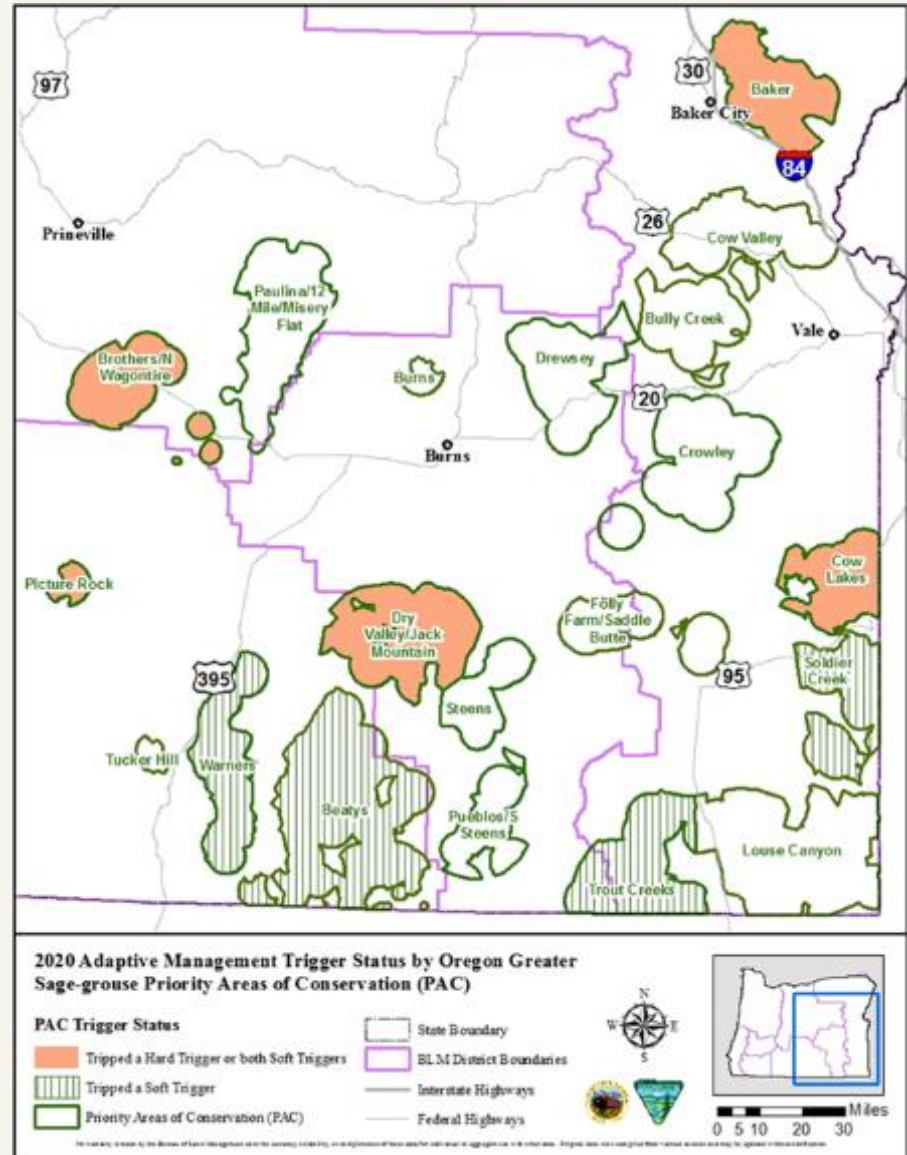
Baker

Brothers/N. Wagontire

Cow Lakes

Dry Valley/Jack Mountain

Picture Rocks



Triggers 2016-2020

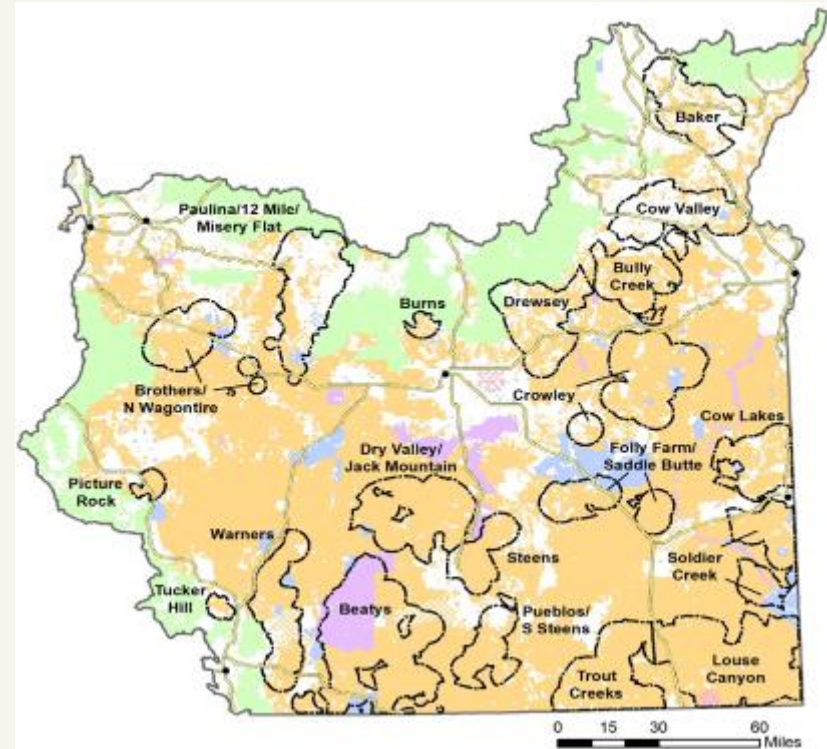
Oregon PAC Name	Leks	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Baker	65	H	H	H	H	H
Beatys	155	S	S			
Brothers/N. Wagonfire	45	H	H	H	S	S
Bully Creek	41					
Burns	3					
Cow Lakes	54	H ^{hp}	H ^{hp}	H ^{hp}	H ^{hp}	H ^{hp}
Cow Valley	56					
Crowley	50		S	S	S	S
Drewsey	44		S			
Dry Valley/Jack Mountain	26	H	H	H	H	S
Folly Farm-Saddle Butte	20					
Louse Canyon	60					
Paulina/12-Mile	61					S
Picture Rock	7	H	H	H	H	S
Pueblos/S. Steens	30		S			
Soldier Creek	47	S				
Steens	15		S			
Trout Creeks	96	S ^h	S ^h	S ^h	S ^h	S ^h
Tucker Hill	6					
Warbers	57	S	S	S	S	S

H = hard population trigger

H^{hp} = soft habitat and soft population trigger (equals a hard trigger)

S = soft population trigger

S^h = soft habitat trigger only



When a hard trigger is tripped

Required responses take effect on BLM-administered lands within the affected PAC and remain in effect until the habitat or population levels rise above the trigger threshold.

Minimize sagebrush loss	Limit new ROW disturbance	Reduce impacts of recreation	Emphasize use of natives
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limit prescribed fire to treat sagebrush in areas <12 inch precipitation• No mechanical sagebrush treatments in winter habitat• Limit broadcast burning of juniper	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No new geophysical exploration permits• Exclusion of new ROW authorizations• Prohibit road construction within 4 miles of active leks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restrict OHV use to areas >2 miles from leks during breeding season• Prohibit construction of recreational facilities within 2 miles of leks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When reseeding closed roads, primitive roads, and trails, use appropriate native seed and transplanted sagebrush

In 2020, there were no existing projects or pending authorizations where mandatory hard trigger responses were necessary

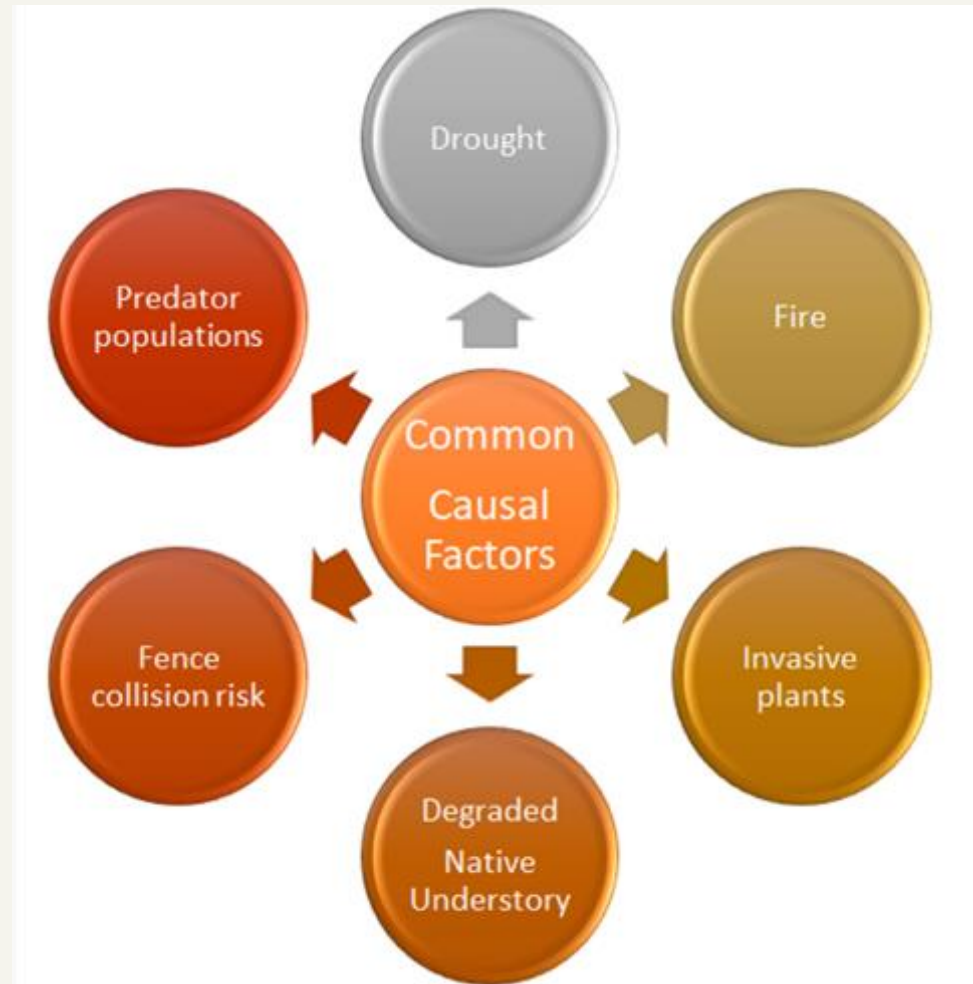
Causal Factor Analysis

Completed Reports:

- ✓ Baker
- ✓ Brothers - North Wagontire
- ✓ Crowley
- ✓ Cow Lakes
- ✓ Dry Valley - Jack Mountain
- ✓ Picture Rock
- ✓ Trout Creeks
- ✓ Warners

Reports pending 2021:

- Beatys





Questions?

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