

WY LQD Stipulations for Surface Mining in Sage Grouse Core Areas

August 28, 2009

1. No new surface disturbance allowed within .6 miles of an occupied Sage grouse lek.
2. New surface disturbance activity will be allowed July 1 – March 14 within core areas. (No new surface disturbance allowed during the period March 15 – June 30.)
3. Mining operations occurring on lands that were disturbed prior to Executive Order 2008-02, dated August 1, 2008, are not subject to the acreage cap.
4. Surface disturbance will be capped at a “rolling” 5% of suitable of sagebrush habitat per 640 acre section.
 - A.) The 640 acres will be defined by PLS section and by permit area boundary.

Examples:

 - i) If company X permits all of S24, T42N, R101W, then disturbance will be limited to 32 acres (5% of 640) if the entire area is suitable habitat. If only 500 acres of the section were suitable habitat then only 25 acres can be disturbed.
 - ii) If company X permits the NW1/4 NW1/4 S24, T42N, R101W, then disturbance limited to 2 acres (5% of 40).
 - B.) Sage grouse habitat is considered to be any land with 5% or more sagebrush cover with measurable grasses and forbs. Unmapped areas within the core areas are assumed to be suitable habitat.

C.) The 5% cap will be rolled when:

- i) disturbed area has been backfilled, regraded, and reseeded and,
- ii) vegetation sampling shows successful reestablishment of sagebrush habitat (5% sagebrush cover with measurable grasses and forbs).

D.) The 5% cap does not apply to non-suitable habitat disturbances. For example, if mining is proposed on barren outcrops or areas with less than 5% sagebrush cover, that disturbance does not count towards the 5% cap.

5. Some credit may be given for completion of mitigation efforts, habitat enhancements, etc.

6. Exceptions to stipulations may be considered on a case by case, site specific basis.

These stipulations are currently under discussion between LQD and WG&F and are subject to change.

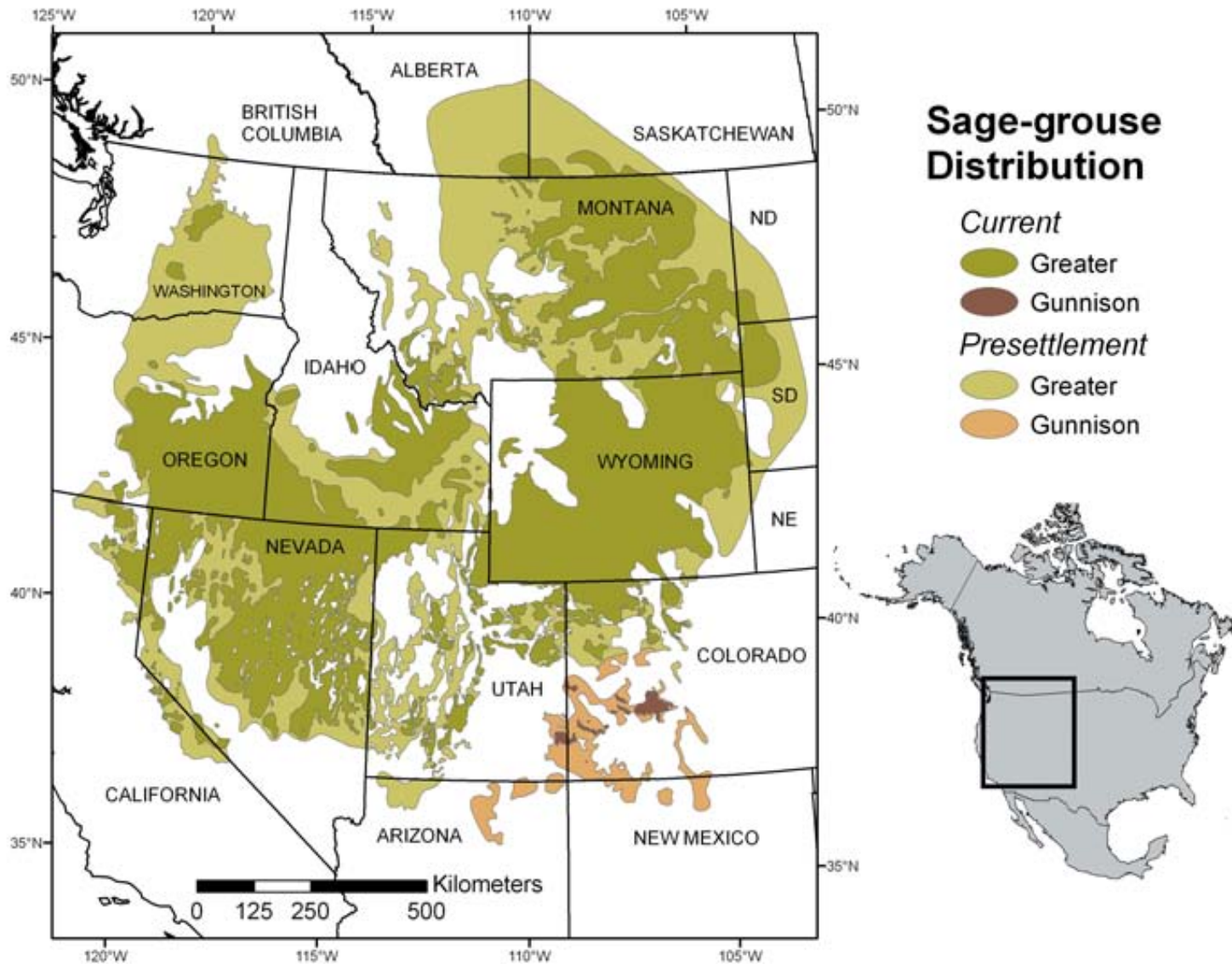
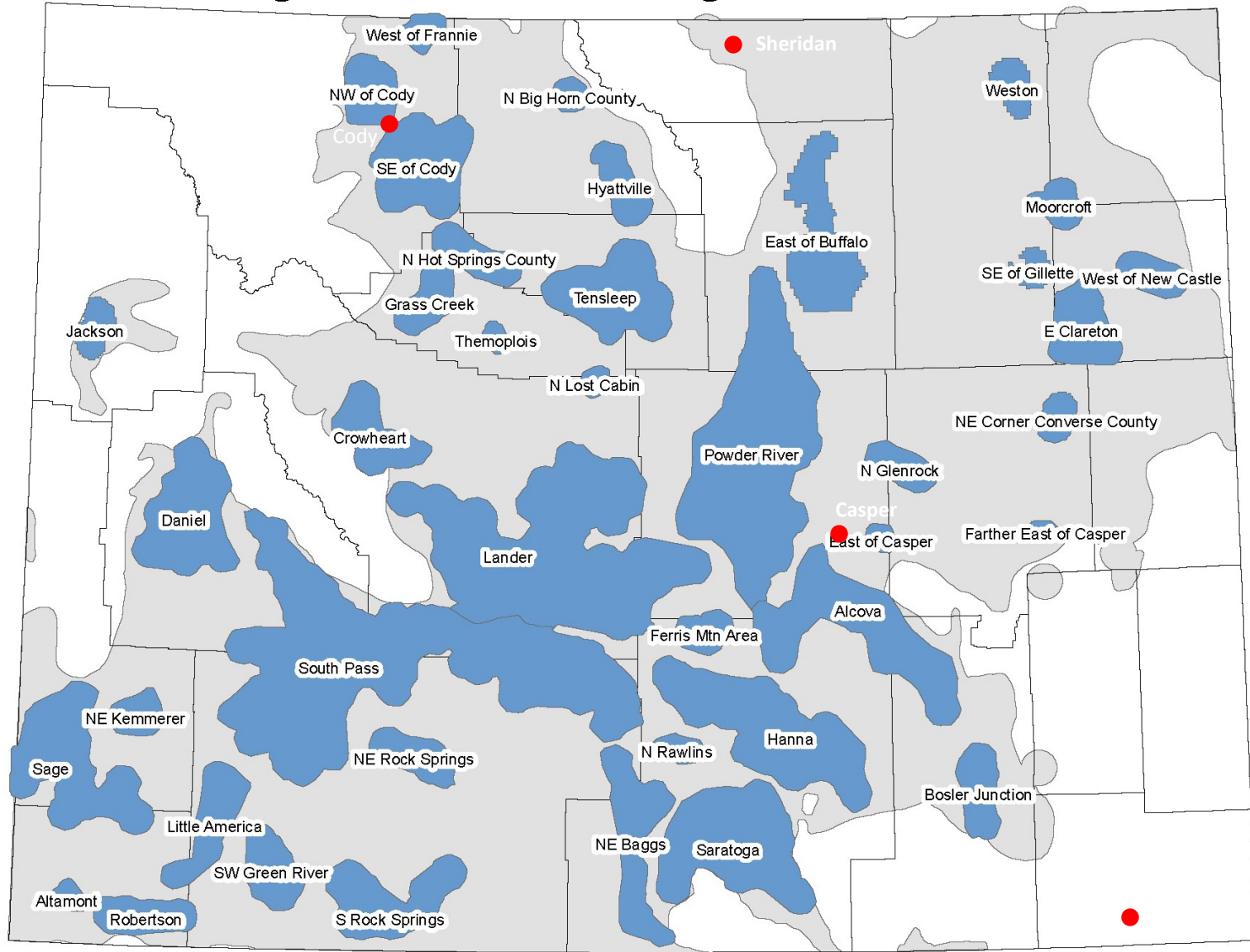


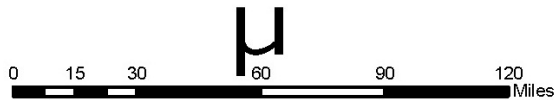
Figure 1 Current and potential presettlement distribution of both greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) and Gunnison sage-grouse (*Centrocercus minimus*) in North America. Adapted from Schroeder *et al.* (2004) with permission. Our analyses focused on greater sage-grouse only. Map projection is Albers Equal Area; Datum is North American Datum 1983.

From Aldridge *et al.* 2008 Range-wide patterns of greater sage-grouse persistence, *Diversity Distrib* 14, 983-994

Sage-Grouse Core Breeding Areas Version 2



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 08.15.08



Core Areas shown were delineated by the Governor's Sage-Grouse Implementation Team during their 03.17.08 meeting in Lander, WY. Updates to the NE core areas from BLM-BFO.

- Core Areas 08.07.08
- Counties
- Current Sage-Grouse Distribution