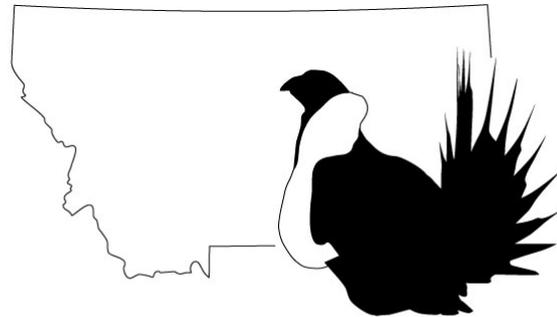
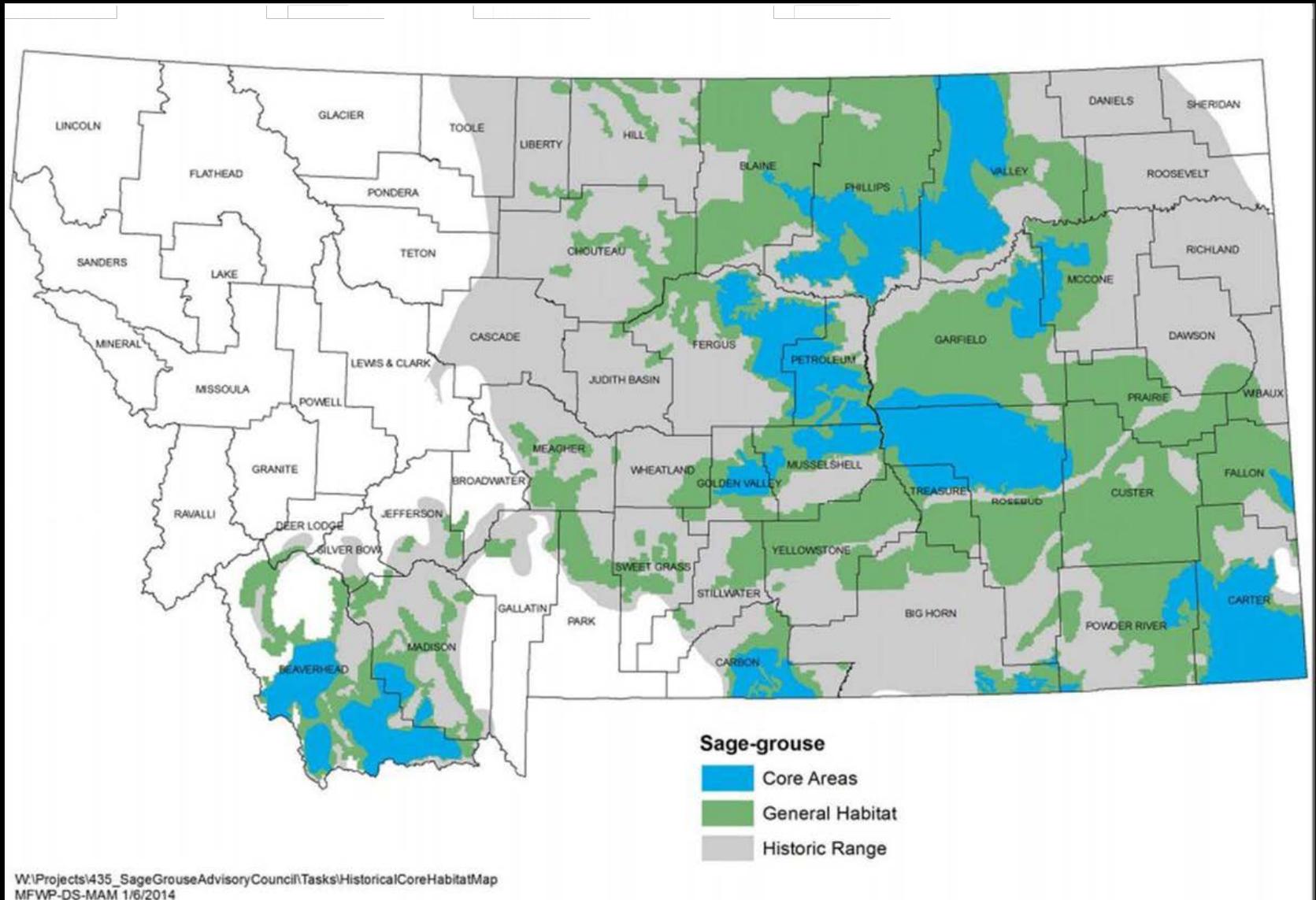


What Does Sage Grouse Have to do with Infrastructure Planning?



MONTANA SAGE GROUSE
Habitat Conservation Program

HISTORIC SAGE GROUSE DISTRIBUTION



SAGE GROUSE TIMELINE



- **1965-2005:** Population declines throughout the west
- **2005:** FWP Plan
- **2010:** USFWS - “Listing warranted but precluded”
- **2011:** USFWS had to decide by Sept. 2015

SAGE GROUSE TIMELINE

- **2013:** MT Advisory Council
- **2014:** Exec. Order 10-2014
- **2015:** Conservation Strategy
 - Executive Order 12-2015
 - Montana Legislature
 - Sage Grouse Stewardship Act
- **2015: USFWS**
 - “listing not warranted”
 - state commitments
 - status review in five years



CONSERVATION CONCERNS

Habitat Loss, Fragmentation, Invasive Species



Lack of Regulatory Mechanisms to Address Threats



MONTANA'S CONSERVATION STRATEGY GOAL:

- ✓ **Maintain viable sage grouse populations and conserve habitat; and**
- ✓ **Maintain flexibility to manage our own lands, our wildlife, and our economy.**

(fulfill commitments so ESA listing never warranted)





Two Greater Sage Grouse males duke it out. Lekking behavior is mainly found in birds, but also occurs in some mammals, pinnipeds, marine iguanas and fruit bats.

Photo Credit: Joel Maes



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[Grant Information](#)
[2016 Grants](#)



PROJECTS

[Start or Follow up on a Project](#)
[Check if you are in habitat](#)





Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program

Two Greater Sage Grouse males duke it out. Lekking behavior is mainly found in birds, but also occurs in some mammals, pinnipeds, marine iguanas and fruit bats.

Photo Credit: Joel Maes



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Program Information



MONTANA SAGE GROUSE HABITAT CONSERVATION PROGRAM
1539 ELEVENTH AVE. HELENA, MT 59601 | SAGEGROUSE@MT.GOV | 406-444-1467 OR 406-444-2613

Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program

The Montana Sage Grouse habitat Conservation Program works to sustain viable sage grouse populations and conserve habitat. Montana's Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy is based on the collaborative work of diverse Stakeholders. The Montana Sage Grouse Oversight Team and the Program implement Executive Order 12-2015 and the Greater Sage Grouse Stewardship Act in partnership with, landowners, state and federal agencies, and many private diverse stakeholders so that Montanans maintain control of their lands, wildlife and economy.

Resources

Documents

- [Executive Order 12-2015](#)
- [Executive Order 21-2015](#)
- [Montana Greater Sage Grouse Stewardship Act](#)
- [Montana Sage Grouse Conservation Program 2016 Achievements](#)
- [Formula for Success](#)
- [2016 Annual Report](#)
- [2016 Executive Summary](#)

Agencies

- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**
[Greater Sage-Grouse 2015 Endangered Species Act Finding](#)
- **Bureau of Land Management**
[Sage-Grouse and Sagebrush Conservation](#)
- **US Forest Service**
[Greater Sage-Grouse](#)

Learn More

- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Sage Grouse Habitat Program Quick Facts](#)
- [Sage Grouse Strategy Quick Facts](#)
- [Quick Start Guide for submitting projects](#)

PRESS RELEASES



SAGE GROUSE LISTING NOT WARRANTED

09/22/2015

Governor Bullock, Secretary Jewell, western governors announce sage grouse does not warrant listing on endangered species act

[Read](#)

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MONTANA'S CONSERVATION STRATEGY AND REGULATORY MECHANISMS



- 1. Executive Order 12-2015**
- 2. Sage Grouse Stewardship Act, 2015**
- 3. Private Land Stewardship**

Executive Order
12-2015

Mitigation
Market
Place

GOALS:

**Maintain viable sage
grouse populations and
conserve habitat**

**Maintain flexibility to
manage our own lands,
our wildlife, and our
economy**

Sage Grouse
Stewardship
Act:
Grant Fund
Mitigation

Private Land
Stewardship

MONTANA'S CONSERVATION STRATEGY

1. Executive Order 12-2015

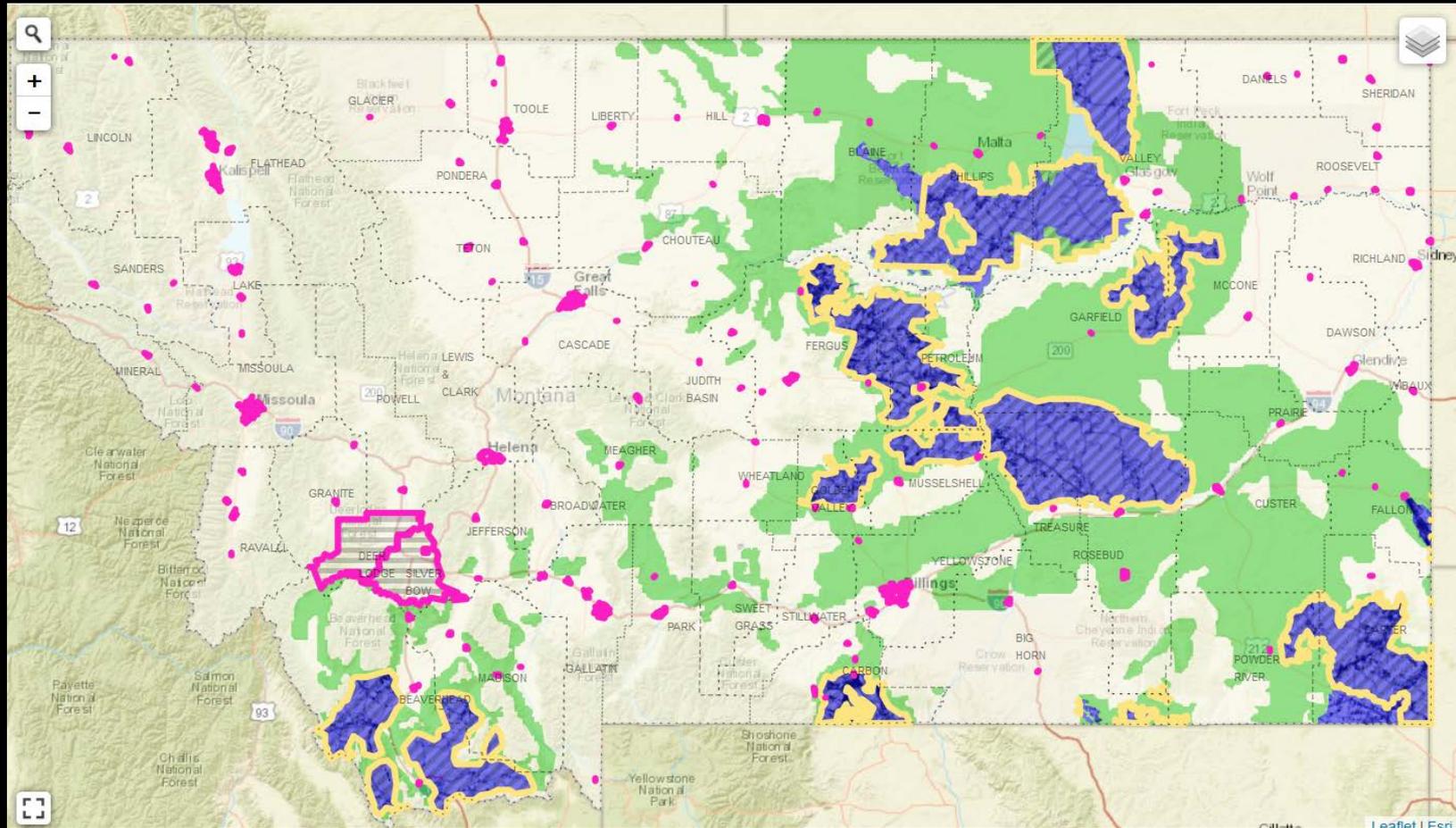
- Mirrors Wyoming
- Establishes State Program
- Establishes Oversight Team (MSGOT)
- Designates key habitat areas
 - “core areas” strategy
- Consultation
 - permitted activities
 - grant programs
 - technical assistance
 - guide activities in designated habitats to achieve goal
 - consult, not regulate
 - mitigate: avoid, minimize, reclaim, replace or compensate



Photo: Joel Maes

Areas of Focus for Sage Grouse Conservation

- *Executive Order 12-2015*
- *Sage Grouse Stewardship Act*



Does it Apply to me?



Consultation Process

Executive Order Consultation



Photo: Richard Proegers

- **Does the EO apply?**
 - Where is the project?
 - Activity within EO Habitat
 - Does it require a state permit, involve a state grant, require technical assistance or a state authorization?
- **Is the activity exempted?**
 - Executive Order 12-2015, Att. F
 - e.g. certain agricultural activities (see list)
 - County activities
 - MSGOT
 - **All activities within incorporated municipal boundaries**
 - Certain DEQ permits
 - Certain DLI permits and licenses



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MONTANA SAGE GROUSE OVERSIGHT TEAM

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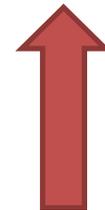
GRANTS

- [Grant Information](#)
- [2016 Grants](#)



PROJECTS

- [Start or Follow up on a Project](#)
- [Check if you are in habitat](#)
- [Quick Start Guide](#)

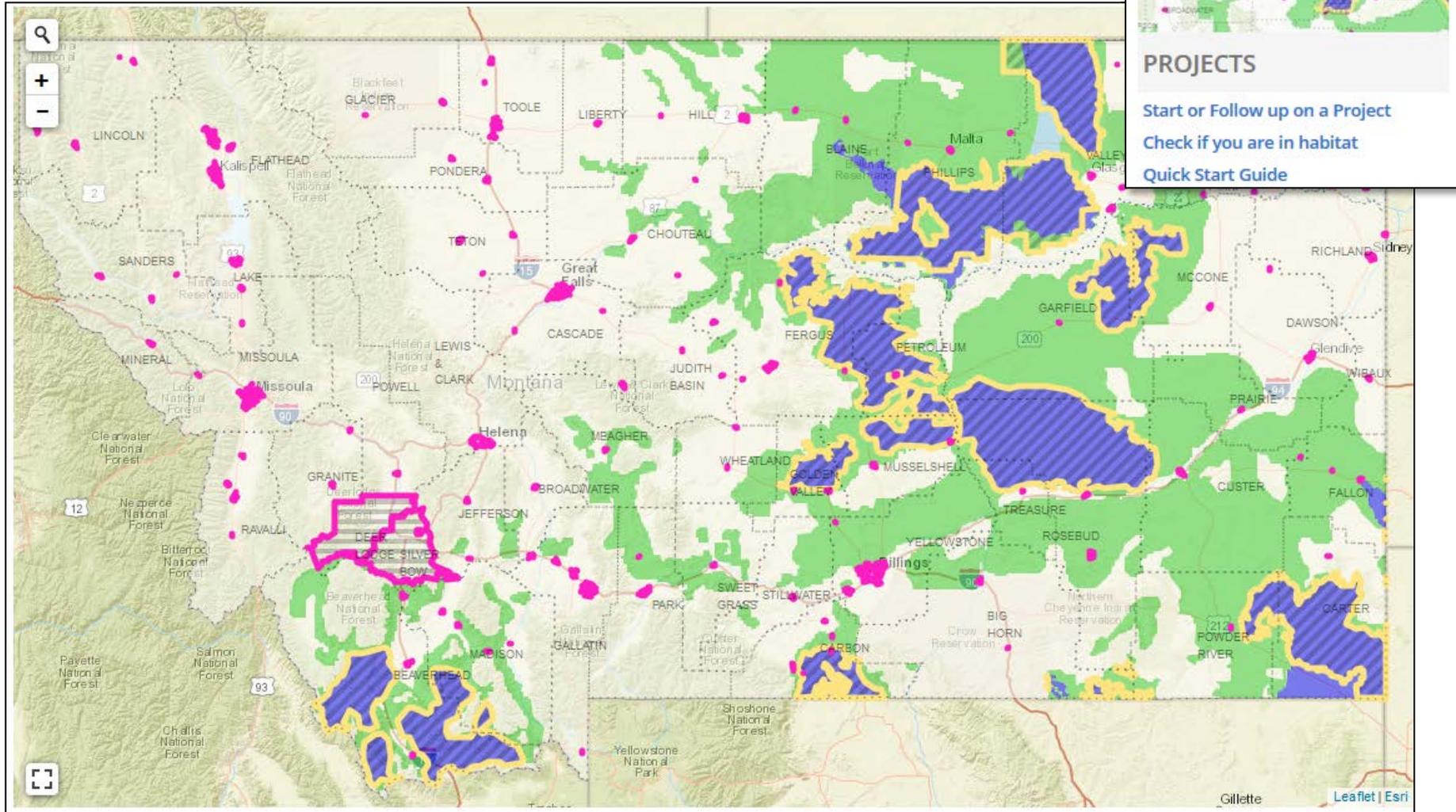


Project Information

- **In/Out**
- **Start Review Process**
- **Quick Start Guide**

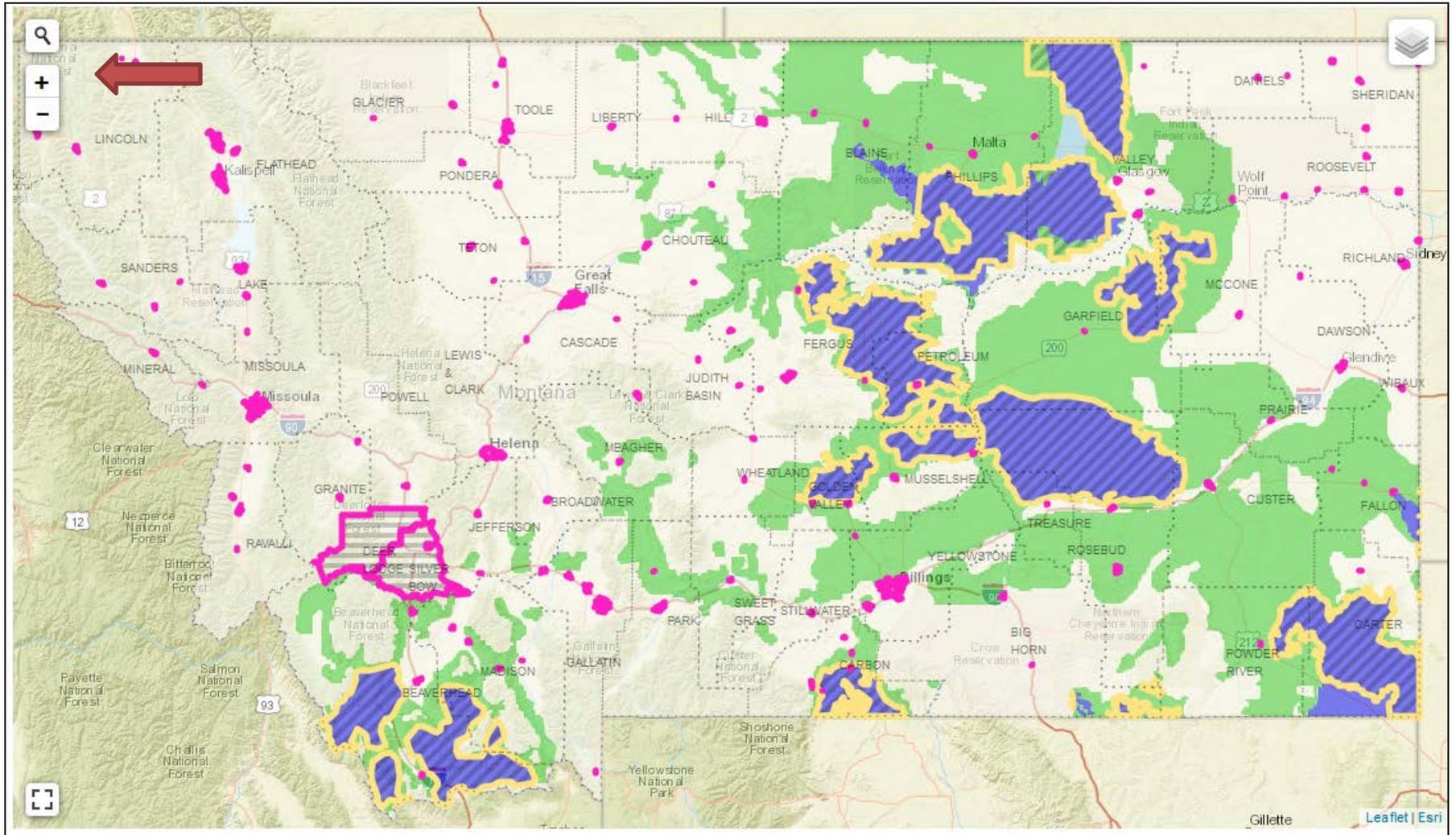


Is Consultation Necessary? ("In" or "Out")



You do not need to log in to view this map

Zoom in (+) or Zoom out (-)



**If Outside
Habitat: take a
screenshot &
submit with
permit
application**



**If Inside Habitat: create
a secure ePass
account and begin**

If project is within Sage-grouse Habitat Create a Secure ePass Account on the Montana.gov website



Home » Welcome to ePass Montana

ePass Montana is a convenient and secure way to access Montana government services.

Instructions

How Do I

Feedback

ePass Montana Login

Hide

Login with ePass Montana

Login with your ePass Montana account. If you do not have an account, you can create one here.

Login

State Employee Login

Hide

Login with State Employee Account

Login with the username and password you use for the state network.

Login

▶ TRY THE DEMO

[Login with OpenID](#)

CONTACT

MT.GOV
100 NEILL AVE
HELENA, MT 59601
OFFICE (406)449-3488
FAX (406)495-0464

SERVICES

- ONLINE SERVICES
- UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FOR YOU
- CANDIDATE FILING LISTS
- VEHICLE REGISTRATION RENEWAL SERVICE

Read Instructions & Quick Start Guide

Work Through Steps 1-6



Photo Credit: Richard Producers

Propose a project in sage grouse habitat

1. Instructions

2. Basics

3. Disturbances

4. Questionnaire

5. Attachments

6. Review & Submit

Instructions

This project proposal has a few parts:

Basics Information about Your Project

This wizard lets you submit project information for any permitted activities proposed in sage grouse habitats designated as core (blue), general (green), or connectivity (light-blue) habitats. If you're not sure which habitat zone(s) your project is in, this wizard will help you determine that. For program details please see our [FAQ](#).

Disturbances: Project Construction and Type of Disturbance

After entering the Basics, you need to draw or upload your project's location and proposed disturbances on a map, and then enter some additional information for each disturbance. Note that a project can have one or more disturbances; for example, you may be proposing a communications project that involves a road, buried cables, and towers, in which case you would have three disturbances.

Questionnaire: Project and Disturbance Description Details

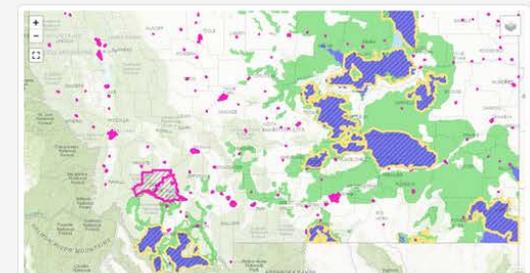
Once your proposed disturbances are mapped and described, you will need to answer some questions based on your disturbance types.

Save Your Project for Later, Save and Continue, or Submit for Review

You'll have a chance to review a summary of your proposed project before you submit it for consultation. You do not need to complete this wizard in one session – your work will be saved and the next time you log in, you'll be able to resume where you left off.

Help

If you run into any snags or have questions, please [contact us](#).



Make sure your project is in sage grouse habitat

Sage Grouse Program's Consistency Review

- **Review Project Proposal**
 - Does the Executive Order apply?
 - Activity?
 - New surface disturbance or activity?
 - Where?
 - When would it occur?
- **If General or Connectivity Habitat**
 - Executive Order
 - General Guidelines
 - Industry Specific Stipulations
- **If Core Habitat**
 - Executive Order
 - General Guidelines
 - Industry Specific Stipulations
 - Density Disturbance Calculation Tool
- **Is mitigation required?**

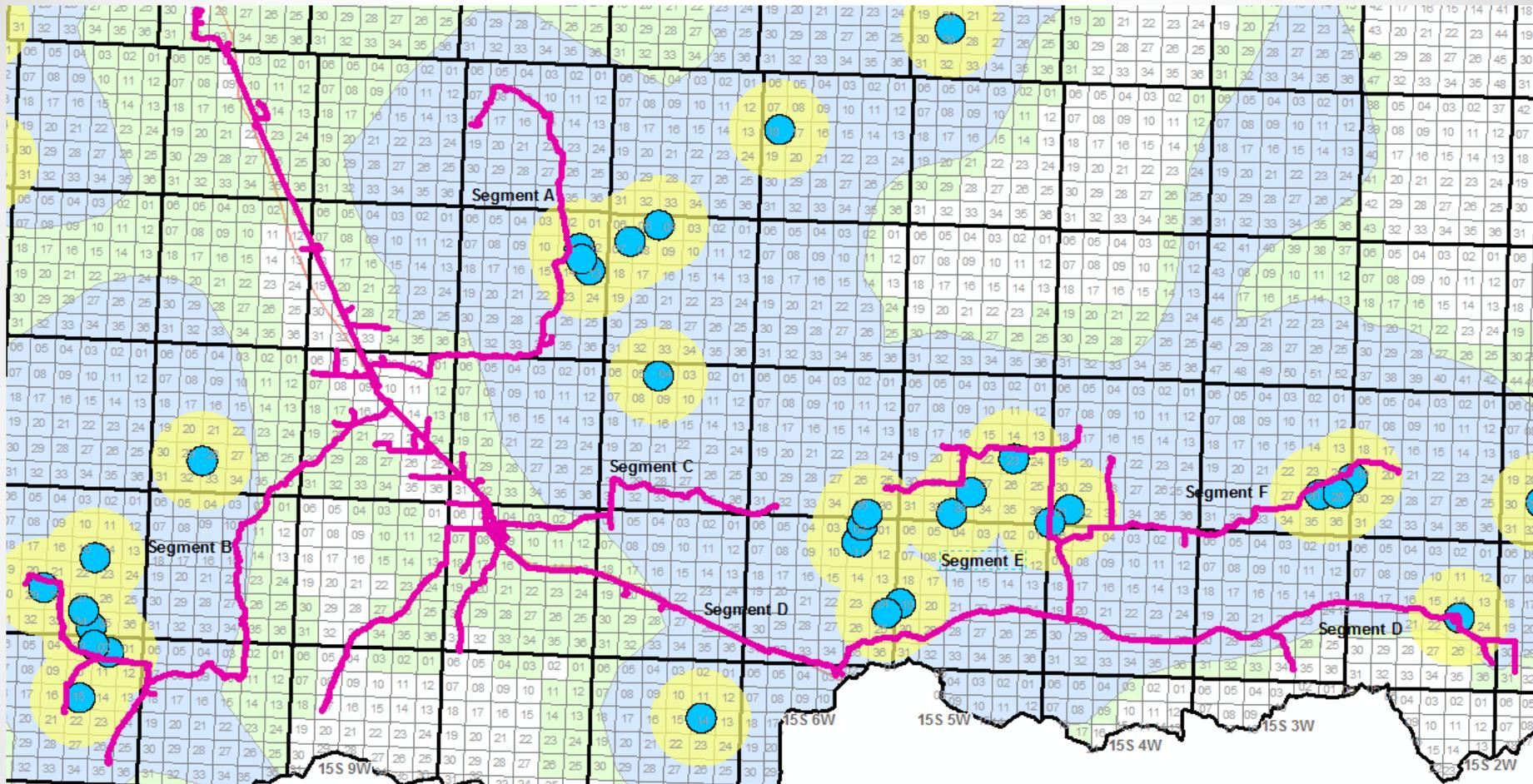
Coordinate with other Agencies:

- **BLM**
- **USFS**
- **DNRC State Trust Lands**
- **NRCS**
- **MT Board of Oil & Gas**
- **State agencies**

Example Project



Fiber Optic Cable Project



	Project Area
	General Habitat Area
	Core Area
	Active Sage Grouse Lek - 2 mile buffer
	No Surface Occupancy 0.6 mile buffer

- **Use the sandbox to plan the project prior to submitting**
- **Interagency pre-meetings helpful**
 - exchange information
 - identify issues, concerns early
 - multiple resources involved
 - “one-stop shop”
- **Provide complete information**
 - development footprint
 - other cooperating entities
- **Allow sufficient time, but don't speculate**

Consultation Tips and Hints



Photo: Richard Prodders

MONTANA'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **“All Hands, All Lands, All Threats”**
 - work collaboratively across all lands
 - develop where least impacts
- **Keep working landscapes working**
- **Respect private property rights, valid rights, existing uses**
- **Be proactive**
 - base decisions and policies in science

SHARED GOAL: NO NEED TO LIST IN THE FUTURE

USFWS 2020 Status Review



Photo: Joel Maes

1. How are the birds doing?

2. What happened to the land?

Questions?

**Carolyn Sime
csime2@mt.gov**



<https://sagegrouse.mt.gov>

Photo: Joel Maes