

Definitions for Advisory Council Consideration

Suitable Habitat – is within the mapped occupied range of sage-grouse, and:

- 1) has 5% or greater canopy cover of sagebrush, where “sagebrush” includes all species and sub-species of the genus *Artemisia*, except the mat-forming sub-shrub species: *frigid* (fringed) and *pedatifida* (birdfoot); OR
- 2) occurrence of Silver Sagebrush (*Artemisia cana*); OR
- 3) is riparian, wet meadow (native or introduced) or areas of alfalfa or other forbs suitable for brood-rearing within 300 yards (275 meters) of suitable sagebrush cover (as defined above).

Surface Disturbance – includes any conversion of formerly suitable habitat (after 2005) to grasslands, croplands, mining, well pads, roads, or other physical disturbance that renders the habitat unsuitable for sage-grouse. Existing uses such as farming and grazing operations, irrigation, county maintenance, and emergency response are not included in surface disturbance calculations.

Project Area – includes a 3.8 mile buffer around the proposed area of disturbance from project

Lek Status (FWP official definition):

- Unconfirmed - Possible lek. Grouse activity documented. Data insufficient to classify as Confirmed Active status.
- Confirmed Active - Data supports existence of lek. Supporting data defined as 1 year with 2 or more males lekking on site followed by evidence of lekking (Birds - male, female or unclassified; -OR- Sign - vegetation trampling, feathers, or droppings) within 10 years of that observation.
- Confirmed Inactive - A Confirmed Active lek with no evidence of lekking (Birds - male, female or unclassified; -OR- Sign - vegetation trampling, feathers, or droppings) for the last 10 years. Requires a minimum of 3 survey years with no evidence of lekking during a 10 year period. Reinstating Confirmed Active status requires meeting the supporting data requirements.
- Confirmed Extirpated - Habitat changes have caused birds to permanently abandon a lek (e.g., plowing, urban development, overhead power line) as determined by the biologists monitoring the lek.