

THE HISTORY OF

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G R E A T E R  
S A G E - G R O U S E  
M A N A G E M E N T

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IN WYOMING

**Why The Study Was Needed**

For more than twenty-five years, conservation advocacy groups have filed petitions with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to list the Greater Sage-Grouse (GRSG) as endangered or threatened pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA). As the state with the highest number of GRSG and the most sage-grouse habitat across its 11-state range, Wyoming would be significantly impacted by such a listing.

**About The Study**

This paper explores the history of Wyoming's Sage-Grouse Executive Order (SGEO), describes the collaborative approach that produced the State's balanced management policies, compares the State and Federal approaches to Greater Sage-Grouse management, and explains why Wyoming's approach provides the best protection for the bird.

**What The Study Concluded**

Knowing that it would be impossible to mitigate the negative economic impact of a GRSG listing, the State established a collaborative process to develop a GRSG management strategy to conserve GRSG habitat and preclude the need for an ESA listing, while at the same time maintaining the ability for multiple use and economic opportunities to occur on the land. The resulting SGEO represents a balanced, science-based approach utilizing the latest research and on-the-ground information.

**Esther Wagner**

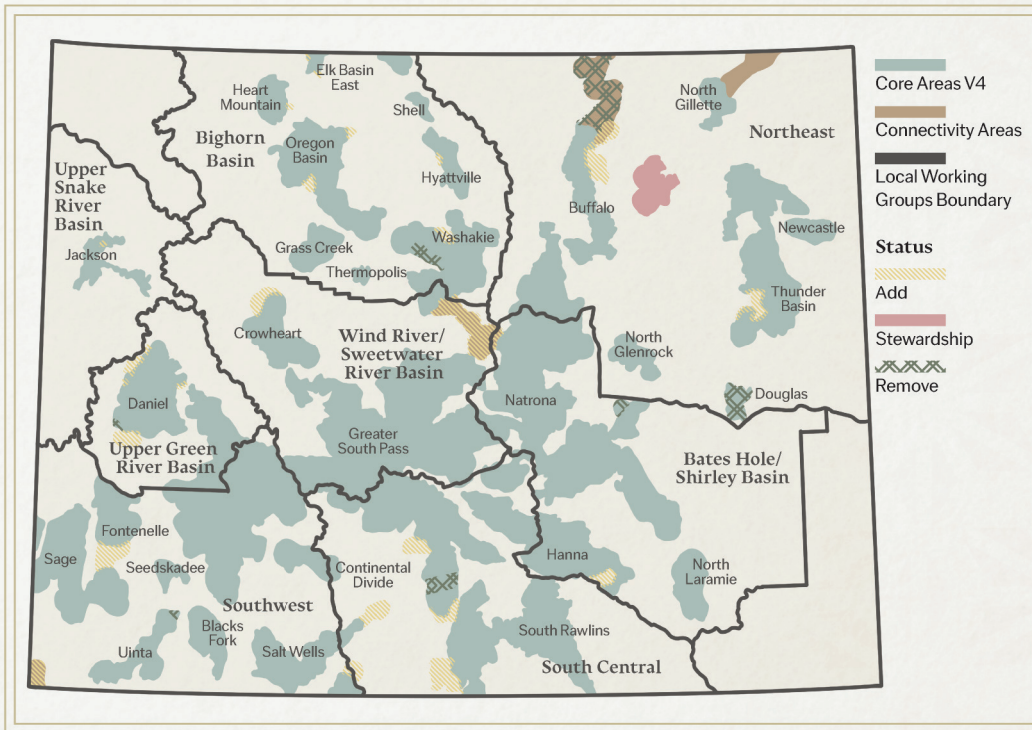
University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources



# 2023 Sage Grouse Implementation Team Draft Core Area Map Revision<sup>1</sup>

State of Wyoming Proposed Sage-Grouse Core Revisions 03/22/2024

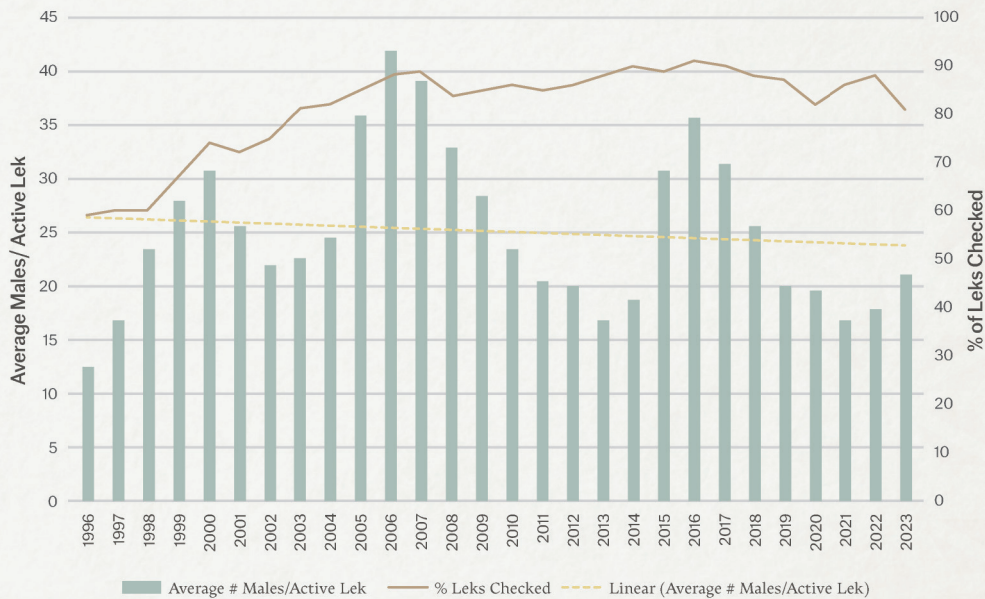
FIGURE 01



<sup>1</sup> State of Wyoming Proposed Sage-Grouse Core Revisions 3/22/2024, WGFD <https://wgfd.wyo.gov/media/30025/download?inline> (last visited May 22, 2024).

## Wyoming Lek Count Index 1996-2023<sup>2</sup>

FIGURE 02



<sup>2</sup> Graph was provided by WGFD based on Nyssa Whittford, Sage-Grouse Job Completion Report June 2022-May 2023, WGFD (2023) <https://wgfd.wyo.gov/media/30118/download?inline>.



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