

# Sage-Grouse Executive Order 2015-4 Worksheet Questions

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## General Information

- ❖ **Project Proponent:** (name, phone, email)
- ❖ **Address to send WGFD Executive Order 2015-4 Policy Review letter:** (street address, city, state, zip)
- ❖ **Point of contact for providing as-built footprints:** (name, phone, email)
- ❖ **If the proposed project requires a State agency permit, check those that apply and provide contact information** (DEQ, OSLI, WOGCC, SEO, Other)
- ❖ **If the proposed project requires a Federal agency permit check those that apply and provide contact information** (BLM, BOR, FS, Other)
- ❖ **What best describes this project:**
  - Project is in **Core Population Area** and a DDCT was completed
  - Project is in **Connectivity Area** and a DDCT was completed
  - Project is in Core Population Area or Connectivity Area and a **DDCT is not required because no new surface disturbance will occur.**
  - Project is in **Winter Concentration Area** outside Core Population Area
  - Project is in Core Population Area and the activity is **de minimis** (SGEO Attachment C)
- ❖ **Describe the following aspects of the proposed project:**
  - (de minimis) What type of project is this?
  - (de minimis) What are the total acres of surface disturbance associated with this project?
  - What is the proposed project? Describe all aspects of the project, including proposed surface disturbance acreage and actions related to the implementation of the project that may result in surface disturbance or disruption within Greater sage-grouse Core Populations Areas, Connectivity Area, or Winter Concentration Area.
  - Where will the proposed project occur? Provide information such as county or locality, township/range/section(s), surface and/or mineral ownership, etc.
  - Does the proposed project description include all current and foreseeable future development activities associated with the proposed project?
    - (If no) Provide all disturbance activities associated with the development of the proposed project including anticipated expansion, water wells, power lines, pipelines, roads, etc.
  - Does the proposed project involve an application for permit to drill (APD)?
    - (if yes) How many wells are being proposed in this DDCT?
    - (If yes) List all Well Names and Well API Numbers
  - Will additional wells associated with this DDCT be proposed in the future?
  - When will development of the proposed project begin?
  - When will development of the proposed project end?
  - What is the expected life of the project (i.e., long-term impact)?
  - Who has been your main point of contact with WGFD Habitat Protection Program?

## General Stipulations

### Surface Disturbance

- ❖ What is the DDCT disturbance calculation as reported on the final calculations output?
- ❖ Is the DDCT disturbance calculation output within the 5% surface disturbance threshold for each affected lek as reported on the final calculations output?
- ❖ Is the project located in a northeast WY core or connectivity area (i.e., Northeast Local Working Group Boundary)?
- ❖ Are there any large sagebrush disturbing wildfires or treatments within the DDCT area?
  - (if yes) Describe (name/date/acres) any large sagebrush disturbing wildfires or treatments within the DDCT area.
  - (if yes) What management objectives, if any, have been implemented to restore the area to functional sage-grouse habitat?
  - (if yes) If the wildfire/treatment occurred prior to 2011, is it being actively managed to meet a minimum 5% sagebrush canopy cover and being counted as transitional sage-grouse habitat (i.e., the proponent and local agency personnel have agreed to count the burn or treatment area as non-disturbed habitat based on an implemented management plan and trend data)?
    - (If yes) Who is responsible for monitoring the transitional habitat until 2021?

### Pre-existing Oil and Gas Units

- ❖ List the names and effective dates of all Federal oil and gas units that overlap the DDCT area.
- ❖ Is the project (proposed disturbance and the permit area) within a Federal oil and gas unit established prior to August 1, 2008?
  - (if yes) Is the proposed project related to oil and gas development?
    - (if yes) Unit development plans should be made available and used to accurately digitize existing and future development within the unit boundary. What information has been used to accurately account for existing and planned development within the unit?
    - (if yes) If the proposed project will result in new surface occupancy, is the project located greater than 0.6 miles from the perimeter of occupied Greater sage-grouse leks?
    - (if yes) Has the surface disturbance associated with the proposed project been minimized?
    - (if yes) Has the DDCT process been completed for the proposed project?
    - (if no) New development within Federal oil and gas units established prior to August 1, 2008 that is not directly related to oil and gas development is required to comply with all aspects of Executive Order 2015-4. The project proponent will need to obtain information about unit development plans to accurately digitize existing and future development within the unit boundary. What information has been used to accurately account for existing and planned development within the unit?
- ❖ Is the project (proposed disturbance and the permit area) within a Federal oil and gas unit established prior to July 29, 2015 **and** located in Core Population Area added as a result of Executive Order 2015-4?
  - (if yes) Is the proposed project related to oil and gas development?

- (if yes) Unit development plans should be made available and used to accurately digitize existing and future development within the unit boundary. What information has been used to accurately account for existing and planned development within the unit?
  - (if yes) If the proposed project will result in new surface occupancy, is the project located greater than 0.6mi from the perimeter of occupied sage-grouse leks?
  - (if yes) Has the surface disturbance associated with the proposed project been minimized?
  - (if yes) Has the DDCT process been completed for the proposed project?
  - (if no) New development within Federal oil and gas units established prior to July 29, 2015 located in Core Population Area added as a result of Executive Order 2015-4 that is not directly related to oil and gas development is required to comply with all aspects of Executive Order 2015-4. The project proponent will need to obtain information about unit development plans to accurately digitize existing and future development within the unit boundary.
- ❖ Is the DDCT area overlapped by a unit(s) established prior to August 1, 2008 or by unit(s) established prior to July 29, 2015 and located within Core Population Area added as a result of Executive Order 2015-4, but the proposed project is located outside the unit boundaries?
- (if yes) Unit development plans should be used to accurately digitize existing and future development within the unit boundaries. What information has been used to accurately account for existing and planned development within the unit(s)?
  - (if yes) In the absence of development plans unit(s) will be considered fully developed for the purpose of calculating existing disturbance per the DDCT process.

## Surface Occupancy

- ❖ Is all proposed surface occupancy greater than 0.6 miles from the perimeter of occupied Greater sage-grouse leks?
- (if no) Is the project is a de minimis activity (SGEO Attachment C)?
    - (if yes) Will construction of the project occur between March 15 and June 30?
    - (if yes) Will construction of the project be avoided on the lek itself?
    - (if yes) Has a habitat evaluation occurred?
      - (if yes) Who completed the habitat evaluation? (name, email, phone, qualifications/credentials)
      - (if yes) How was the habitat evaluation completed?
      - (if yes) What is the activity or infrastructure being evaluated?
      - (if yes) Will development of the activity or infrastructure occur on the lek?
      - (if yes) Has the activity or infrastructure been moved from the original proposed location?
        - ◆ (if yes) Why was it moved?
      - Provide additional information explaining why the activity or infrastructure is being located at the proposed site (i.e., the site being evaluated).
    - (if no) Has the proponent discussed the project location with the permitting agency and WGFD?

- ❖ Is there any current infrastructure within 0.6 miles of the perimeter of occupied Greater sage-grouse leks that will be utilized as a part of the proposed project?
  - (if yes) Has the proponent discussed the infrastructure location with the permitting agency and WGFD?

### Seasonal Use

- ❖ How are seasonal stipulations (March 15 - June 30) being applied to project development activities?
- ❖ Have winter concentration areas been identified and mapped in the project area?
  - (If yes) How are seasonal stipulations (Dec. 1 - March 14) being applied to the project development activities?

### Geophysical Exploration

- ❖ Does the project involve geophysical exploration?
  - (if yes) How are seasonal stipulations being applied and how does the project meet minimal disturbance guidelines?

### Transportation

- ❖ What is the distance (at the closest point) of collector or arterial roads associated with the project to the perimeter of each affected occupied Greater sage-grouse lek?
  - List Lek Names and Distance (in miles)
  - If **less than 1.9 miles**, have the proponent and local agency personnel agreed on the use of the roadways within the aforementioned buffer?
- ❖ What is the distance (at the closest point) of local (access) roads to the perimeter of each affected occupied Greater sage-grouse lek?
  - List Lek Names and Distance (in miles)
  - If **less than 0.6 miles**, have the proponent and local agency personnel agreed on the use of the roadways within the aforementioned buffer?

### Overhead Power Lines

- ❖ Will this project require electrical power at any point during the life of the project, including exploration?
  - (if yes) Have the power line rights-of-way and all disturbance associated with power line construction been accurately counted in the disturbance calculation?
  - (if yes) Will new power lines be co-located in existing power line corridors, within ½ mile of an existing 115kV or larger line, or within the right-of-way of another existing linear feature?
  - (if yes) Describe best management practices (APLIC 2015) that will be applied.
  - (if yes) Will new power lines be buried?
    - (If no) Will they be greater than 0.6 miles from perimeter of any occupied Greater sage-grouse leks?

## Noise

- ❖ Describe noise associated with the project that may occur from March 1 to May 15 between 6PM and 8AM during any phase of project implementation (i.e., development through production), including traffic to and from the project location.
  - Were baseline noise level measurements taken at Greater sage-grouse lek perimeters to ensure that new noise does not exceed 10 decibels (as measured by  $L_{50}$ ) above baseline?
  - Describe the noise monitoring plan.

## Vegetation Removal

- ❖ Is vegetation removal associated with the project planned between March 15 and June 30 within 4 miles of an occupied Greater sage-grouse lek?
  - (If yes) What are the potential impacts and has the vegetation removal been discussed and agreed upon by the proponent and local agency personnel?
- ❖ What best management practices for protecting topsoil will be applied (SGEO Attachment G)?

## Sagebrush Treatment

- ❖ Does the project include vegetation treatment?
  - (If yes) Describe how the treatment complies with Executive Order 2015-4 and WGFD sagebrush treatment protocols.
  - (If yes) What protocols were used to assess the total sagebrush cover prior to treatment?
  - (If yes) If the treatment will not be counted as disturbance (i.e., treatment area will remain suitable habitat), what controls will be used to ensure that cover does not fall below protocol thresholds?

## Reclamation

- ❖ Will the proposed project require reclamation?
  - (If yes) Describe how the reclamation plan complies with Executive Order 2015-4.
  - (If yes) Has the proponent discussed reclamation to return the disturbed area to suitable Greater sage-grouse habitat with the surface owner?

## Monitoring and Adaptive Response

- ❖ Are Greater sage-grouse leks in the DDCT area being monitored annually?
  - (if yes) List the Greater sage-grouse leks the proponent is currently monitoring or has agreed to monitor in the DDCT area? (Lek Name and Monitoring Status)
  - (if no) Proponents should coordinate annually (by March 1) with the local WGFD biologist to determine monitoring needs.
- ❖ What adaptive management responses will be proposed if declines on monitored Greater sage-grouse leks are determined to be caused by the project?

## Specific Stipulations

### Oil and Gas

- ❖ If the project includes oil and gas development, provide the DDCT disruptions per 640 acres (i.e., density calculation) as reported on the final calculations output.

### Mining

- ❖ If the project includes mining activity, provide the DDCT disruptions per 640 acres (i.e., density calculation) as reported on the final calculations output.

### Connectivity Corridors

- ❖ Is all proposed surface occupancy greater than 0.6 miles from the perimeter of occupied Greater sage-grouse leks?
  - (if no) Has the proponent discussed the project location with the permitting agency and WGFD?
- ❖ Is there any current infrastructure within 0.6 miles of the perimeter of occupied Greater sage-grouse leks that will be utilized as a part of the proposed project?
  - (if yes) Has the proponent discussed the infrastructure location with the permitting agency and WGFD?
- ❖ How are timing stipulations (March 15 - June 30) being applied to the project in nesting habitat within 4 miles of Greater sage-grouse leks?

### Underground Rights of Way

- ❖ Is the proposed project an underground linear feature located within a federal management agency designated utility corridor?
  - (if yes) Has the proponent completed the DDCT process?
  - (if yes) As-built construction diagrams must be submitted to the Sage-Grouse Implementation Team (SGIT) within 60 days of construction completion. Who is the point of contact for providing as-built diagrams? (name, email, phone)
  - (if yes) How will seasonal use stipulations be applied to project construction?
  - (if yes) Are the locations of associated permanent aboveground facilities located within the utility corridor?

### Wind Energy Development

- ❖ Is this a wind energy development project?
  - (if yes) Wind development is not recommended in Greater sage-grouse Core Population Areas at this time.

### Process Deviation or Undefined Activities

- ❖ Does development of the proposed project incorporate less restrictive stipulations or is an activity not covered by stipulations outlined in Attachment B of Executive Order 2015-4?
  - (If yes) Does the proposed project meet at least one of the following conditions:
    - No suitable habitat is present in one contiguous block of land that includes at least a 0.6 mile buffer between the project area and suitable habitat.

- No Greater sage-grouse use occurs in one contiguous block of land that includes at least a 0.6 mile buffer between the project area and adjacent occupied habitat, as documented by total absence of Greater sage-grouse droppings and an absence of Greater sage-grouse activity for the previous ten years.
- Implementation of a development/mitigation plan that has demonstrated through previous research avoids negative impacts to Greater sage-grouse. The demonstration must be based on monitoring data collected and analyzed with accepted scientific based techniques.

### Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation

- ❖ Does the project cause or contribute to the exceedance of disturbance and/or density thresholds?
- ❖ Describe additional actions taken to avoid and minimize negative impacts in Executive Order 2015-4 delineated habitats (i.e., Core Population Area, Connectivity Area, or Winter Concentration Area).
- ❖ Describe compensatory mitigation projects being proposed by the proponent or recommended by the permitting agency or WGFD that should be implemented to offset anticipated impacts to Greater sage-grouse that cannot be adequately avoided or minimized.