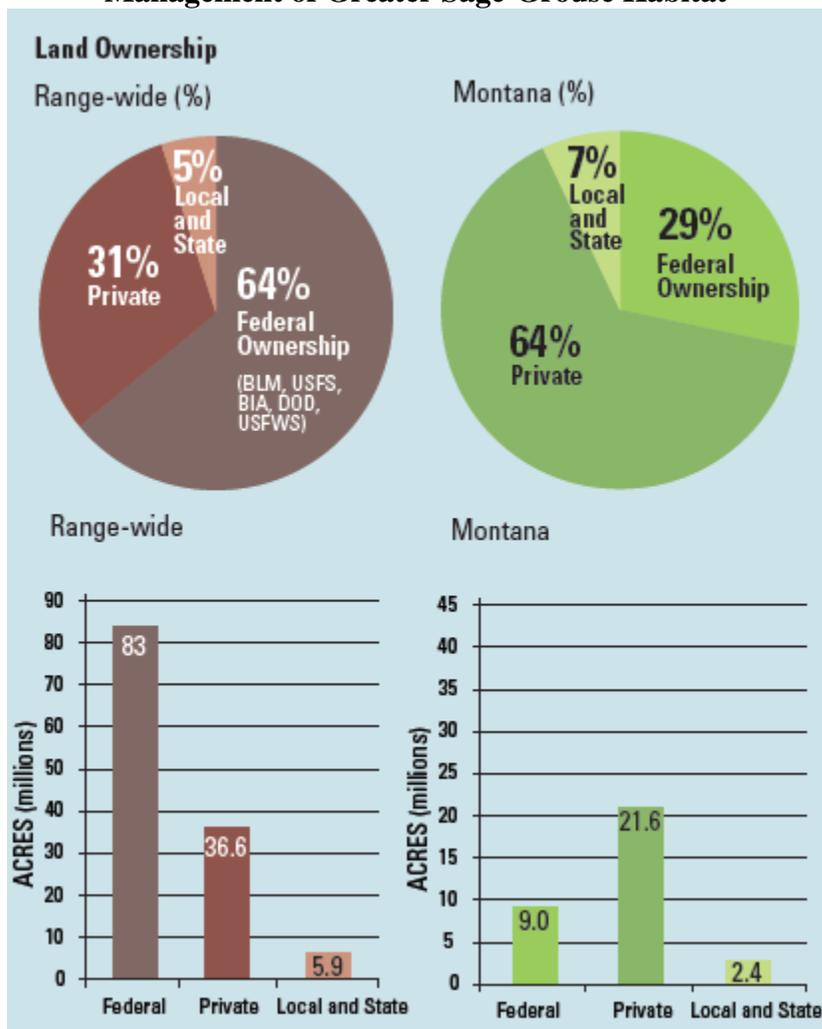


## Montana

### Facts and Figures for BLM Conservation Plans for Greater Sage-Grouse

With nearly 1,000 leks and an estimated 18 percent of the total greater sage-grouse population, Montana is the northern-most stronghold for greater sage-grouse and is key to the species’ survival. The state’s populations also play an important role in connectivity with greatly reduced populations to the north (Canada) and east (the Dakotas). Unlike some western states, about two-thirds of Montana’s sage-grouse habitat is on non-federal land.

#### Management of Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat



**About the plans:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is amending and revising land use plans in Montana to address threats to the greater sage-grouse and its habitat such that protections under the Endangered Species Act are no longer warranted. The BLM plans provide a layered management approach that focus protections on priority areas identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where additional loss of habitat would reduce long-term viability of sage-grouse populations.

**Definitions:**

- **Priority Habitat Management Areas (PHMA)**
  - **Definition:** BLM administered lands identified as having the highest value to maintaining sustainable greater sage-grouse populations. Priority habitat closely tracks Priority Areas for Conservation (PACs), identified in the Conservation Objectives Team report and based on state-mapped key greater sage-grouse habitats.
  - **Management approach:** The plans seek to limit or eliminate new surface disturbance.
- **Sagebrush Focal Areas (SFA)**
  - **Definition:** Areas within priority habitat that have been identified by the Service as “stronghold” areas essential for the species’ survival.
  - **Management approach:** The plans offer the highest protections in these anchor areas, seeking to limit or eliminate new surface disturbance.
- **General Habitat Management Areas (GHMA)**
  - **Definition:** BLM administered lands where special management would apply to sustain greater sage-grouse populations, but that are not as important as priority habitat.
  - **Management approach:** The plans seek to minimize disturbance.

**Habitat Management Areas in Montana in Final Proposed Plan**

Area	Acres	Percent of Montana
<b>State of Montana</b>	94,185,600	100%
<b>BLM planning area</b>	9,872,490	10%
<b>PHMA</b>	3,905,300	4%
<b>SFA (within PHMA)</b>	980,400	1%
<b>GHMA</b>	3,235,935	3%

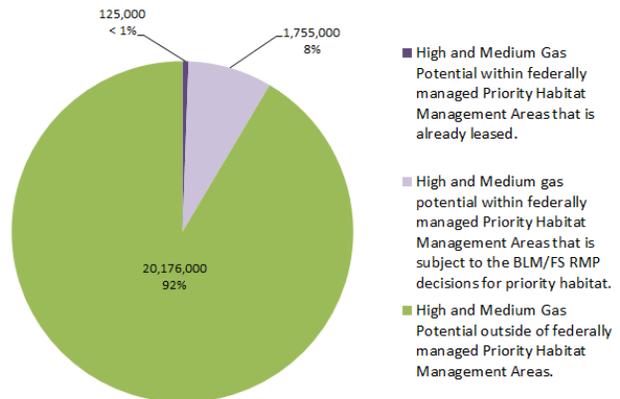
**Current Development** - Statistics below demonstrate the extent to which federally managed Priority Habitat Management Areas have existing energy development. The plans recognize all valid, existing rights.

- **Overall:** Approximately 7% of PHMAs on federal lands and minerals are covered by existing leases and ROWs for coal, oil and gas, solar and wind energy.
- **Oil and Gas Leases:** Approximately 7% of PHMAs on federal lands and minerals are leased, with approximately 1% of these held by production.
- **Coal Leases:** There are no coal leases in PHMAs on federal lands.
- **Solar Rights Of Ways (ROW):** There are no approved solar ROWs in PHMAs on federal lands.
- **Wind ROWs:** There are no approved wind ROWs in PHMAs on federal lands.

**Energy potential within priority habitat** - Statistics below depict the amount of energy potential estimated to exist *within* federally managed Priority Habitat Management Areas.

- **Oil:** Approximately 93% of federal lands and minerals within PHMAs have low oil potential.
- **Natural Gas:** Approximately 59% of federal lands and minerals within PHMAs have low natural gas potential.
- **Wind:** Approximately 57% of federal lands within PHMAs are in low to medium wind speed categories.

**Out of approximately 22 million acres of high and medium gas potential in Montana, approximately 1.8 million acres (8%) will be subject to the BLM/FS RMP decisions for priority habitat.**



**Energy potential outside of priority habitat** – Statistics below depict the amount of energy potential estimated to exist *outside* of federally managed Priority Habitat Management Areas.

- **Oil:** Approximately 98% of lands that have medium to high oil potential within the state are outside of federal lands and minerals within PHMAs.
- **Natural Gas:** Approximately 92% of lands that have medium to high natural gas potential within the state are outside of federal lands and minerals within PHMAs.
- **Wind:** Approximately 96% of lands in the high wind speed category within the state are outside of federal lands within PHMAs.

**Hard Rock Mining Locations (A surrogate for hard rock mineral potential) outside of Sagebrush Focal Areas** - 100% of hard rock mining locations within the state occur outside of federal lands and minerals within SFAs.

### Analysis Details

PHMAs are summarized in this document for all topics except for mineral potential, which refer to SFAs. The extent of this analysis was defined by the area within the political state boundaries and the surface or subsurface estate as applicable to the subject as follows:

1. Oil, Gas, Coal and Minerals related analyses were limited to the federal subsurface estate within PHMA for MT, ND, SD, WY, CO, UT, and portions of ID. The federal surface estate (including BIA lands) was used as a surrogate for subsurface estate within PHMA for NV, CA, Northern ID and OR. Total oil and gas potential includes all lands within the political state boundaries.
2. Wind analysis was limited to the federal surface estate (including BIA lands) within PHMA and total potential for all lands within the political state boundaries.
3. Solar PEIS analysis extent was determined by the initial study, which included BLM administered lands within the political states of CA, NV, UT, CO, AZ, and NM. Only CA, CO, NV, and UT are summarized in these statistics.

### Data Sources

1. **Oil and Gas Potential:** Inventory of Onshore Federal Oil and Natural Gas Resources and Restrictions to Their Development - Phase III Inventory – Onshore United States 2008. Detailed analysis was performed in defined basins, with an extrapolation model applied to all other areas.
2. **Solar PEIS Land Use Allocations:** Downloaded from <http://solareis.anl.gov/maps/gis/index.cfm> and modified for analysis by the Wildlife Habitat Spatial Analysis Lab with input from Argonne National Laboratory in April 2015.
3. **Wind data:** AWS Truepower, LLC acquired from the BLM.
4. **Metallic Mineral (Hard-Rock) Locations:** Extracted from the USGS Mineral Resource Data System (2012) database.
5. **Oil and Gas Leases, Coal Leases, Wind & Solar ROWs:** BLM submissions compiled by the Wildlife Habitat Spatial Analysis Lab in 2012.