

# Priority Science & Management Challenges for Sage Grouse in Nevada



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# Context

## Primacy of Investment Strategy

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- **Goal:** Stop decline of population and habitat
- **Primary Threat in NV:** Altered Ecological Processes
  - Invasive Species
  - Increased Fire Return Intervals and Magnitude of Fires
- **Investment is Key Strategy:** Restoration & Resilience
- **BLM and FS Land Use Plan Needs To Facilitate Effective Investments**

# Investments – Maximize ROI

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- Funding will fall short of need
- **Return on Investment (ROI)**
  - Project Scale: Invest in most cost- effective conservation treatments (need rigorous metrics)
  - Landscape Scale: Invest in the places and habitat types that matter most
- Federal Land Use Plans need to set Landscape Scale Priorities across 18 million acres public land

# BLM & FS Draft Land Use Plan - NV

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- **Strengths of Preferred Alternative (18m acres):**
  - Required Design Features (RDFs)
  - NSO for fluid minerals
  - ROW Avoidance & No Net Loss mitigation requirements
- **Ways to Strengthen:**
  - Identify Priority (spatially explicit) Conservation Areas for priority investment based on quantifiable landscape objectives for population & habitat suitability
  - Deploy most restrictive FLPMA authorities within Conservation Areas

# Conservation Areas

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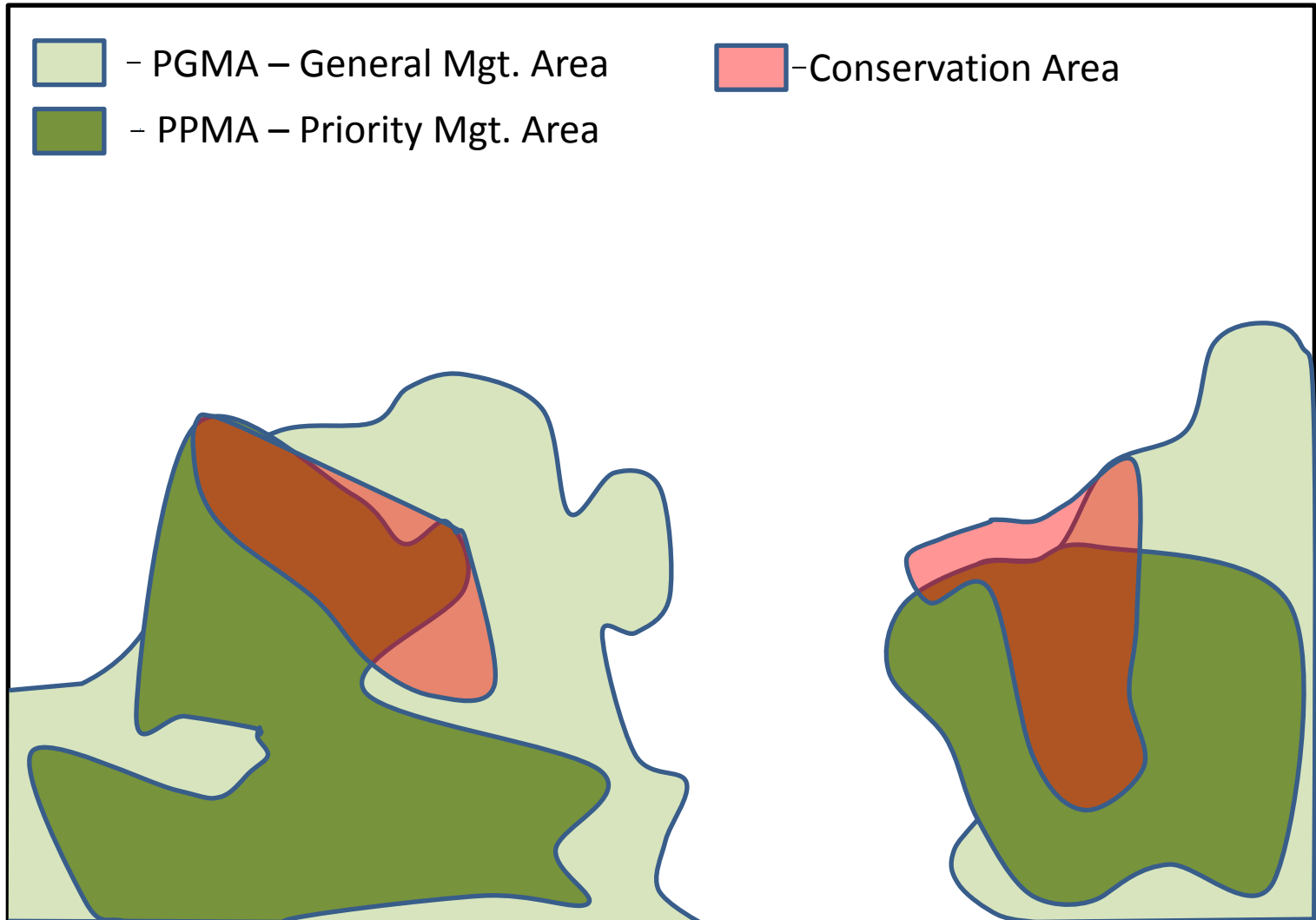
## *Selection Criteria*

- Existing Population Density
- Threat Risk (fire, weeds & anthropogenic)
- Habitat Functionality & Resilience
- Restoration Potential

## *Management Regime*

- ROW Exclusion with Disturbance Cap
- Designation - ACEC

# Spatially Explicit Conservation Areas



# Key Science & Management Challenges

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- Define Landscape Scale, Quantifiable, Population & Habitat Objectives
- Identify Conservation Areas based on selection criteria
- Prescribe these spatially explicit Conservation Areas in Record of Decision (Fall 2014)