

## **Metadata for Updated (2023) ODFW Sage-Grouse Core and Low-Density Habitat**

### Title

ODFW\_GRSB\_Habitat\_15Dec2023

### Tags

greater sage-grouse; core habitat; low-density habitat; Sage-Grouse Priority Areas for Conservation; Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

### Summary

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife sage-grouse core and low-density habitat map was originally delineated in 2011 as one component of the Oregon Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy (CAAS). The core and low-density habitat map was updated in 2023 with the Department's most recent sage-grouse data and the best available science, following the methodology outlined in the CAAS. As part of the update process, the draft map was reviewed by ODFW District Biologists, cooperating agency biologists, conservation partners, and the public to ground-truth and refine the boundaries at a 1:10,000 scale. The final map was adopted by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission on 15 December 2023.

### Description

The purpose of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW or the Department) sage-grouse core area approach to conservation (OAR 635-140-0015) is 'to address greater sage-grouse management from a conservation biology perspective that identifies the most productive populations and habitat that meets all life history needs.' Under this overarching goal, ODFW identified and mapped sage-grouse habitats necessary to conserve 90% of Oregon's greater sage-grouse population, defined as 'Core Areas', or 'core habitat'. Similarly, ODFW identified low-density habitats, which provide additional breeding, summer, and migratory habitats for Oregon's greater sage-grouse populations. The ODFW sage-grouse core and low-density habitat map was originally delineated in 2011 as one component of the Oregon Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy (CAAS).

The Goal 5 sage-grouse rule (OAR 660-023-0115) was adopted by the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) in 2015. This rule defines core and low-density sage-grouse habitat and makes specific reference to the sage-grouse map delineated by ODFW and outlined in the CAAS. The LCDC adopted the 2011 ODFW sage-grouse core and low-density habitat map into OAR 660-023-0115 as the controlling document identifying significant sage-grouse habitat. The Goal 5 sage-grouse rule (OAR 660-023-0115) defines significant sage-grouse habitat and identifies types of land use that could conflict with the conservation of Oregon's sage-grouse populations. The Rule directs counties to review applications for development permits using the mitigation hierarchy (avoidance, minimization, and mitigation; defined in OAR 635-140-0000

through 0025) and sets development thresholds that limit the amount of significant sage-grouse habitat impacted due to new large-scale development.

The core and low-density habitat map was updated by ODFW in 2023 with the Department's most recent sage-grouse data and the best available science, following the methodology outlined in the CAAS (see 'Sage-Grouse Core Area Habitat Categorization and Conservation Recommendations using ODFW Fish and Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Policy'). During the final phases of the update process, the draft map was reviewed by ODFW District Biologists, cooperating agency biologists, elected county officials or their representatives in counties with sage-grouse habitat, Oregon's Sage-Grouse Local Implementation Teams (LITs), conservation partners, and the public to ground-truth and refine the boundaries at a 1:10,000 scale. The updated core and low-density map (this shapefile; 'ODFW\_GRSG\_Habitat\_15Dec2023.shp') was adopted by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission on 15 December 2023. The Department expects the LCDC to adopt the updated (2023) sage-grouse core and low-density habitat map as part of the Goal 5 sage-grouse rule (OAR 660-023-0115), thereby replacing the deprecated 2011 map. Until the updated (2023) sage-grouse habitat map is adopted by the LCDC to replace the 2011 map, the 2011 map will continue to apply for OAR 660-023-0115.

### Spatial Reference

Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide Lambert (Intl Feet)

Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic

WKID: 2992

Authority: EPSG

Linear Unit: Feet (0.3048)

Geographic Coordinate System: NAD 1983

WKID: 4269

Authority: EPSG

Angular Unit: Degree (0.0174532925199433)

Datum: D North American 1983

### Credits

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife [ODFW]. (2023). Sage-Grouse Core and Low-Density Habitat Map. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Salem, Oregon, USA.

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### Use Limitation

Care was taken in the creation of these datasets, but they are provided "as is". The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife cannot accept any responsibility for errors, omissions, or positional accuracy in the digital data or underlying records. There are no warranties, expressed or implied, including the warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose, accompanying any of these products. However, notification of any errors would be appreciated.

These datasets are subject to revision as new data and information becomes available. The 2023 update to ODFW's sage-grouse habitats utilized all existing data and the best available science through 2023. For this reason, there is no 'general sage-grouse habitat' delineated on this 2023 map. General sage-grouse habitat is defined as 'occupied (seasonal or year-round) sage-grouse habitat outside of core and low-density habitats.' General habitat may be added to this map as new data and information on sage-grouse distribution in Oregon becomes available. Finally, the lack of a record identifying habitat for sage-grouse in these datasets is not proof of unsuitable habitat for the species.