

Title:	Public Land Use in the Federal Sage-Grouse Emergency Order Area
Number:	ESRD, Species at Risk, 2014, No. 1
Program Name:	Species at Risk
Effective Date:	February 18, 2014
This document was updated on:	

Purpose

This directive has been developed in response to the federal Emergency Order for the Protection of the Greater Sage-Grouse. Land use application and approval processes under the authority of the *Public Lands Act*, *Water Act* and *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* have been adjusted to align with the intent of the Emergency Order.

Context

The federal government has issued an Emergency Order under the federal *Species at Risk Act* to protect greater sage-grouse. The Order comes into force on February 18, 2014 and addresses imminent threats to specified sage-grouse habitat in order to stabilize the sage-grouse population. The Order affects approximately 980 square kilometres of provincial Crown lands and includes prohibitions related to: destruction of native plants; construction of new structures with specified height and noise thresholds; construction of roads and fences; and seasonal noise disturbance. The full text of the Order can be viewed on the *Species at Risk Act* Public Registry at sararegistry.gc.ca.

Alberta's greater sage-grouse population is nearing extirpation with an estimated provincial population of fewer than 50 birds. In the late 1960s the provincial population was estimated to be 3,000 birds. The species is listed as endangered under Alberta's *Wildlife Act* and the federal *Species at Risk Act*.

Procedure

Land Use Application and Approval Processes in Emergency Order Area

Proponents applying for use or disposition of public lands in the area affected by the Emergency Order must be aware of the Emergency Order.

Holders of dispositions, approvals or licences for lands in the area affected by the Emergency Order must not contravene the prohibitions set out in the Emergency Order.

Statutory decision-makers will refuse to issue a disposition, approval or licence, or will refuse renewal of a disposition, approval or licence, for activities that have contravened or will contravene the Emergency Order.

When issuing a disposition, approval or licence, or approving renewal of a disposition, approval or licence, for lands in the area affected by the Emergency Order, a statutory decision-maker may impose terms and conditions as considered appropriate in relation to the Emergency Order or to further support sage-grouse conservation and recovery.

Enforcement/Compliance

The federal government is responsible for the compliance and enforcement of the Emergency Order for the Protection of the Greater Sage-Grouse.

Contact Information

For more information on the Emergency Order for the Protection of the Greater Sage-Grouse contact:

Canadian Wildlife Service
Environmental Stewardship Branch
Prairie & Northern Region
Environment Canada
Eastgate Offices
9250 – 49th Street
Edmonton, Alberta T6B 1K5
Telephone: 1-800-668-6767
Email: Enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca
Web address: sararegistry.gc.ca

For more information on the Directive contact:

Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development
Information Centre
Main Floor, Great West Life Building
9920 108 Street
Edmonton Alberta Canada T5K 2M4
Call Toll Free Alberta: 310-ESRD (3773)
Toll Free: 1-877-944-0313
Fax: 780-427-4407
Email: ESRD.Info-Centre@gov.ab.ca
Website: esrd.alberta.ca

Authorities

Public Lands Act, Public Lands Administration Regulation, Water Act, Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act

Approved

Original signed by

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