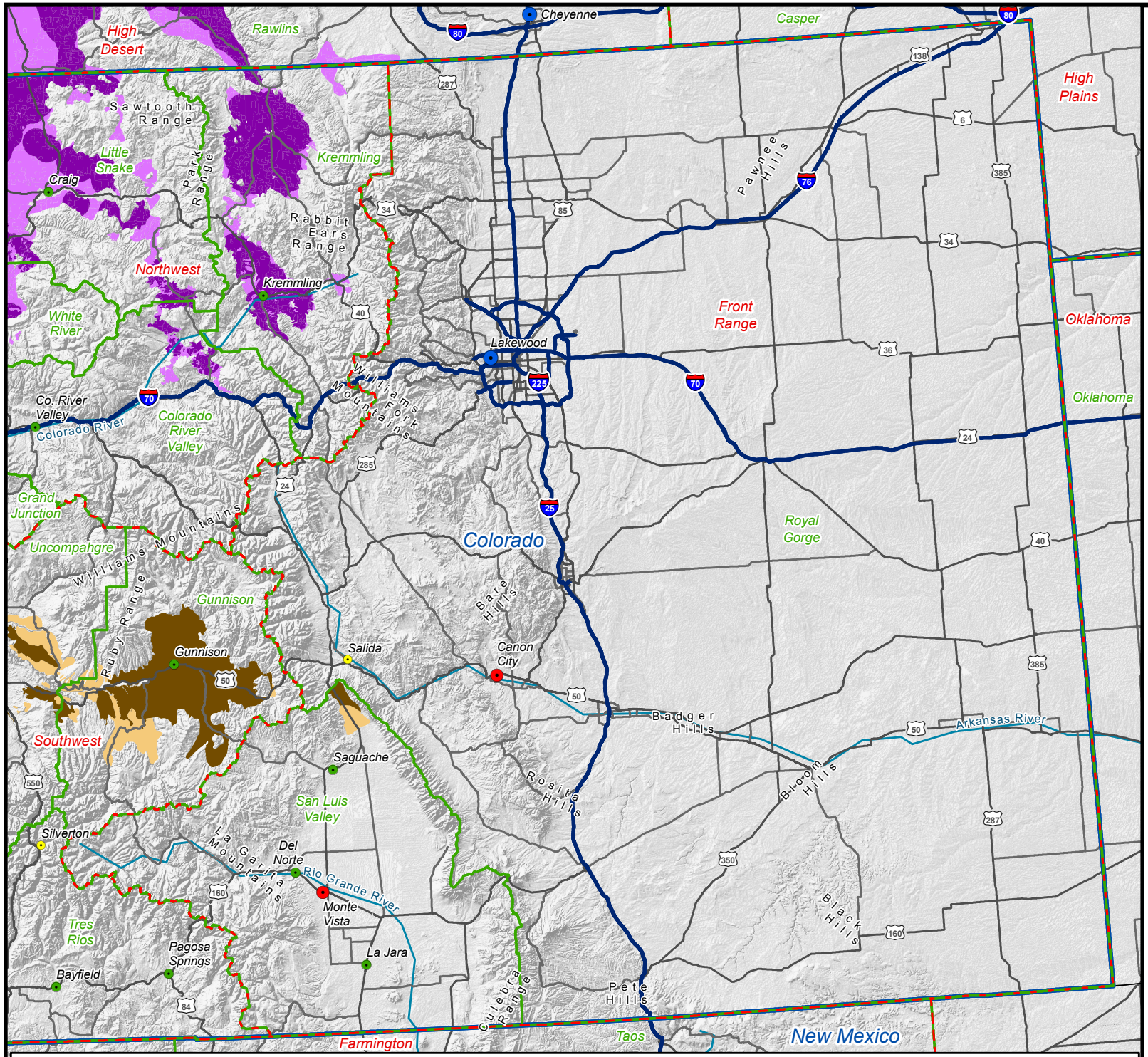
Front Range Greater Sage-Grouse and Gunnison Sage-Grouse Habitat - June 2015 -



All GUSG habitat is valuable to the long-term survival of the species and should be the highest priorities for conservation and protection during fire operations and fuels management decision making. When suppression resources are widely available, maximum efforts should be placed on limiting fire growth in these polygons. When suppression resources are not widely available, the GUSG occupied habitat may be viewed as more valuable than GUSG unoccupied when priorities are established. Because GUSG is a federally listed species under the Endangered Species Act, emergency consultation will have to be conducted for all wildland fire for the bird and its habitats.

Legend

- Priority Habitat Management Areas
- General Habitat Management Areas
- GUSG Occupied Habitat
- GUSG Unoccuppied Habitat
- BLM State Office Boundaries
- BLM District Office Boundaries
- BLM Field Office Boundaries
- Administrative State Office
- Administrative District Office
- Administrative Field Office
- Field Stations, Monuments, and Other Administrative Types

Description:

Priority Habitat Management Areas (PHMA) and General Habitat Management Areas (GHMA):
Greater Sage-Grouse habitat classes utilized within recently released GRSG land use plan revisions and amendments. PHMA and GHMA loosely correspond to, and reflect a refinement of, Preliminary Priority Habitat (PPH) and Preliminary General Habitat (PGH), and will replace PPH and PGH when the Records of Decision are signed in late summer 2015 (Note that the GRSG habitat for the Bi-State population in CA/NV is not described by PHMA or GHMA. All Bi-State habitat is now Priority Habitat). PHMA is a higher value priority to protect, conserve and restore than GHMA, and GHMA is prioritized higher than other sagebrush vegetation.

GUSG Occupied Habitat:
Areas of suitable habitat known to be used by GUSG at the time of the ESA listing decision. This includes areas of suitable habitat contiguous with areas of known use, which do not have effective barriers to sage-grouse movement from known use areas, unless specific information exists that documents the lack of sage-grouse use. Areas designated by the FWS as occupied habitat should be assumed to be incorporated into this description.

GUSG Unoccupied Habitat:
Areas which are either: 1. Currently suitable habitat, but not contiguous with occupied habitat and a) has not been adequately inventoried, or b) has not had documentation of grouse presence in the past 10 years, OR 2. Capable of supporting sagebrush communities based on soils or other site characteristics but may need practical restoration activities applied. Areas designated by FWS as unoccupied habitat should be assumed to be incorporated into this description.

Data Sources:
BLM Administrative Boundaries and Office Locations: Downloaded from GeoSpatial Gateway, 05/20/2015.
BLM Proposed Plan Habitat Category Data: Submitted by each individual BLM EIS between February 2015 and March 2015.
Gunnison SG (GUSG) Occupied/Unoccupied Habitat: Acquired from the BLM CO State Office on 06/22/2015.

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